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It would appear hardly proper to allow the three hundredth anniversary of the establishment of libraries in British America to pass unnoticed. Since the first American library opened sometime in September, 1638, within a short distance of the present Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, and within the hospitable shelter of Harvard College, this issue of the HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES *has been devoted by the Editors to a review of our history. Some members of the staff no longer active appear again in these pages, and it is pleasant to welcome those from whose wise guidance and counsel we have so often profited.*

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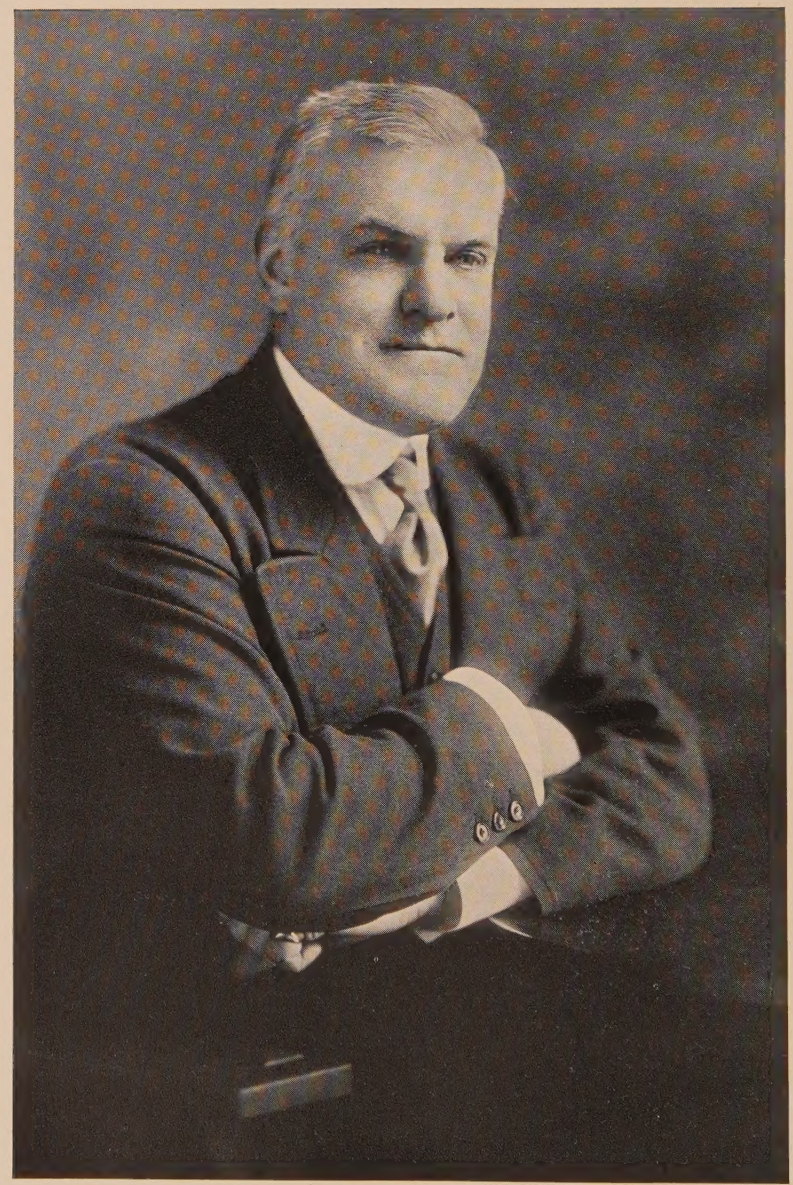

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EDGAR HUIDEKOPER WELLS
1875–1938

HARVARD LIBRARY
NOTES

VOLUME III MARCH, 1939 NUMBER 6

EDGAR HUIDEKOPER WELLS

1875–1938

EDGAR HUIDEKOPER WELLS died at Katonah, N. Y., on July 1st, 1938, after a long illness. In his death the Harvard Library lost one of its best and oldest friends. In many respects he can be ranked among its greatest benefactors, not that he was in a position to make many direct gifts either of books or of money, but that he was able to stimulate in others some of his own interest and enthusiasm, and thus induce them to make gifts toward the growth and strength of the Library.

His own great interest in it, amounting to a real affection, must have begun about the turn of the century. Graduating from Harvard in 1897 with the degree *magna cum laude*, he spent two years in the Law School. Soon after this he entered the Library as a volunteer worker and began the preparation of "A Report on Some Authors in English Literature 1660–1780 in the College Library." This was a work in half a dozen thick quarto volumes; on one side of the leaves were written the titles of books in this field that the Library already had, while on the opposite pages were entered in red ink the lacunae. This labor of love was

of immense value in building up the collection of English literature for the period covered. The task occupied most of his spare time until 1905, when duties in other parts of the College called him. Indeed, while he made a complete revision of the first two volumes, he was never able to find the time to compile the final volume which would have covered the authors from Swift to the end of the alphabet. It was probably this bibliographical work and the appalling number of gaps it disclosed in the Library's collections that prompted him to try to remedy the condition by raising a sum of money for the purchase of English literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The amount thus collected was less than two thousand dollars. While this seems from present day standards a small sum for such a purpose, in those days of comparatively low prices it went a long way toward fulfilling its object, and a surprisingly large number of books and pamphlets were secured and proudly checked on the List with an "H" to show they were at last on the shelves of old Gore Hall.

This was but the first of a number of subscriptions of money, either to establish memorial funds or for some immediate purpose, that Wells was instrumental in starting and valiant in carrying on. With his own enthusiastic interest in the Library's welfare it was not difficult for him to convince many of his host of good friends of the worthiness of the particular object he had at heart. It was natural, therefore, that when the Friends of the Library was established in 1925 he was one of its organizers and its chief recruiting officer. Besides the gifts thus induced from others, he himself was a constant donor. Although never a rich man, he often gave small sums of money either directly or through the Friends; frequently these were earmarked for some special purpose or in memory of a friend or relative. He was also a constant giver of books, auto-

graph letters, programs, posters, and other material he knew would fit into some of the Library's collections. Among the letters there are several series from prominent persons, some of which are to remain sealed for a period of years.

Wells was Curator of Modern English Literature from 1903 to 1913, and secretary of the Library Council from 1909 to 1913. He was co-editor of the second edition of "Descriptive and Historical Notes on the Library of Harvard University" (1911), a work he always jokingly referred to as the "Second Folio." Soon after this time his official connection with the Library came to an end, but he continued to give to it constant and loving service wherever he was. Even during the World War, when he was stationed in London, first as deputy commissioner to the American Red Cross and then as military attaché to the American Embassy, he found time to pick up many things to send to Cambridge.

In the fall of 1921 he established in New York the firm of Edgar H. Wells & Company, dealers in rare books. His entry professionally into the book world enhanced rather than diminished the opportunities he found to serve the Library. He was indefatigable in hunting up rare and out of print books — and generally successful in his quests. On his many book-buying trips to England he always took with him lists of desiderata, and found many valuable items to bring back for Harvard. He also represented the Library at New York auction sales, where his wide knowledge of rare books and their value, and his reputation in the trade for fair and square dealing, were of real advantage. By far the most important of these auctions was the Clawson sale in May, 1926. Through the generosity of a few friends, the Library had forty thousand dollars to expend at this sale of rare English literature, and Wells was able through skillful buying to secure a large

part of the books needed. Another most important series of purchases he made for Harvard was the collection of rare English books given anonymously in memory of Lionel de Jersey Harvard. Almost all of the items in this great gift passed through his hands, and it was in commemoration of aid in gathering them that the donors caused to be made and inserted in a few of the rarer books a special book-plate in his honor.

This article does not attempt to give a sketch of Edgar Wells and his busy, useful, and friendly life; it is merely an attempt to express some appreciation of that part of his life which he dedicated with ever loyal faithfulness to the Harvard College Library.

ALFRED CLAGHORN POTTER

THE HARVARD TREASURE ROOM

By George Parker Winship

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY Treasure Room is Harvard's current effort to meet the wishes of the most valued, and most valuable, benefactors of the University Library, without encroaching on the basic functions of the book collections as working material for potential scholars. There are more serious problems which concern the harmonizing of the interests of undergraduates who use the Library, and likewise those of writers of books, with the functions of the collections as a laboratory for the training of graduate students of the humanities; but these problems are no concern of the present contribution to the consideration of other matters.

The problem of minimizing the anxieties of those

who want to give to Harvard books that they are fond of, and who worry over possible neglect of these if they become a part of its Library, is at least two hundred years old. Bookishness, indeed, seems to have been inculcated as part of the undergraduate character by President Dunster, who from all the evidence must have been a model for dilettante scholars when he was a student at Magdalen College. A bookplate was the first visible piece of printing produced by the local press after it came under Dunster's direction, and there are still in existence 24 dated book-labels printed before the year 1700 for Harvard students, almost certainly as an outcome of Dunster's influence.

This influence held well into the eighteenth century. Two graduates of its first decade have yet to be equalled by later Harvard men, as consistent and lifelong collectors of books. It was a member of the class of 1700 who began by giving his services to the Boston Public Library of those days while he was waiting for a job to turn up, after graduation, and who, 64 years later, when he learned that the College Library had burned, sent down from Marblehead all his books, which to this day help to give "class" to Harvard's collections. One of these books has on its title John Donne's private mark of ownership, and it adds lustre to Professor Norton's unsurpassed Donne collection given to Harvard in 1905. Another, a little volume of newspapers of 1641 and 1642, stands at the beginning of the collection of Commonwealth news sheets, unequalled in America, which are the most useful section of the Frederick Lewis Gay library given in 1916 by Mrs. Gay. The other collector of that era was Thomas Prince, a graduate of 1707 who became minister of the Old South Church in Boston, which still owns his books but has placed them for safe keeping in the Boston Public Library. Many of them still have inside the cover his original bookplate, reading:

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO
THE NEW-ENGLAND-LIBRARY
BEGUN TO BE COLLECTED BY THOMAS PRINCE,
UPON HIS ENTRING HARVARD-COLLEGE, JULY 6,
1703; AND WAS GIVEN BY SAID PRINCE, TO
REMAIN THEREIN FOR EVER.

Whatever his age when he had this declaration printed, Prince showed a wisdom beyond his years, in phrasing it so that his intention is uncertain. Luckily his books did not go to Harvard when he died in 1758, but remained safely in the pastor's study in the firetrap steeple of the Old South Church.

The rarest of the Harvard Americana came in two collections made in France and Germany, which were given in 1818 by Israel Thorndike and Samuel A. Eliot. Many of these volumes, with others that then seemed valuable, were placed in cupboards in the Gore Hall Reading Room after this was occupied in 1841. These closets became hopelessly overcrowded long before the reading room was lifted and stacks built under it in 1895. President Sparks's American historical manuscripts had come to the Library after his death in 1866, in the black walnut locked presses in which he had kept them in his home. Ugly and ungainly to a later generation, these were the first step toward a separate Treasure Room. The next, during Justin Winsor's administration, was the provision of locked closets with heavy wire fronts placed in the aisles at the end of sections of shelves in the stack wing erected in 1877, to hold valuable books which were classified in that or adjacent sections. These and other makeshifts had to serve after expectations of a new building were dashed by the death of Frederick L. Ames in 1893. In desperation, an addition to the wing was built in 1902, and in this a mezzanine room was squeezed in to hold the rare books.

The distinctive feature of the 1902 room was due to

Mr. Lane's ingenuity. This was an arrangement for shelving the books in contiguous sliding wooden closets that locked automatically but could be pulled out as required, each containing a double row of shelves opening on the opposite sides. Ideal in theory as planned, the mechanical gadgets sometimes balked, wood swelled, and the books had no ventilation. I was then in Providence, where I tried twice to have this scheme developed in metal, but found no way of matching the joinery of wood at any cost within reason. I still believe that it ought to be possible, and that Harvard, and Mr. Lane, will sometime be credited, not for the first time, with being in the forefront in a matter of library practice.

The plans drawn for Mr. Ames included a rare book room adequate for the early 1890's. These plans were twice restudied, with the lack of attention inevitable when there was no prospect of their being used. No changes were made in the room in question, although gifts of valuable books were coming in more frequently, and Professor A. C. Coolidge had begun to buy freely and to interest younger graduates going into the diplomatic service in building up the sections of the Library devoted to the countries where they were stationed. When the new building finally came, these were the plans that were turned over to the architect, as representing Harvard's desires. Inevitable changes were made, and the Treasure Room was lucky to hold on to what it had. The President of the University was in good company in believing that the Harry Elkins Widener collection gave Harvard for the first time some really valuable books of monetary importance. Before the new building was occupied, it became evident that the plan to use the Treasure Room primarily for exhibition purposes, with ability to keep track of the receipts from the sale of picture postcards as the custodian's essential qualification, was not going to work.

A simple calculation showed that there were more books waiting to go into this room than it could accommodate, and a door was cut through the partition so that a portion of the adjoining stack could be used. Structural features limited the width of this door, and when it proved too narrow to admit the first important possible benefactor, after it was in use, a wider entrance was provided from the stack. This was closed after the need passed, because it made it difficult to maintain proper control of the stack section of the Treasure Room.

Besides what was left of the Americana received a century before, to which important additions had been made by Francis Parkman, Charles Sumner, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and Mrs. William Hooper, the present-day Treasure Room started with a notable accumulation of bibliographical rarities. These had come in considerable numbers with the gifts of Thomas Hollis, James Winthrop, Edward Everett, Thomas Carlyle, John Lathrop Motley, Senator Sumner, James Russell Lowell, Charles Eliot Norton and his friends, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's family, George Ticknor, William H. Prescott, John Bartlett, Sir John Bourinot, Francis J. Child, Jeremiah Curtin, John Harvey Treat, Mrs. Edward D. Brandegee, Henry Ware and George Washington Wales, Henry Clarke Warren, Fitzedward Hall, Morris Hicky Morgan, Henry Arthur Jones, John Drew, Winthrop Ames, Frank E. Chase, John Craig, George Herbert Palmer, J. Pierpont Morgan, James Hazen Hyde, Jacob H. Schiff, George Lyman Kittredge, Francis Cabot Lowell, John Hays Gardiner, John Humphreys and Malcolm Storer, Arthur Sturgis Dixey, Francis Skinner, William Bayard Cutting, Alain C. White, Mrs. Emil Christian Hammer, Enrique de Cruzat Zanetti, Clarence L. Hay, Harold Wilmerding Bell, William Henry Schofield, William R. Castle, John Allyne Gade, Henry Goddard Leach, and others too numerous to mention.

These are names which are held in particular esteem in the Harvard Treasure Room. They are those of donors who gave nice books to the College Library, and in many cases their gifts were made in spite of, or disregard of, the fact that they knew that the Library could not provide the treatment that such books deserve. With the Harry Elkins Widener Building, it became possible to plan for more careful handling and more intelligent supervision of these often irreplaceable assets of the University. The normal result of improved conditions was that the Treasure Room, overcrowded to start with, found itself called upon to welcome a flood of new gifts, while at the same time it was expected to remedy a half-century's neglect by culling from the open shelves in the stack the volumes which had become valuable with the lapse of time or changing standards of interest. More shelves had to be requisitioned from the adjoining stack, and then a larger special reading room and more carefully protected storage shelves were equipped on the floor below. Further additions have now been provided to accommodate the new administration of this department of the Library.

The Sparks bookcases were not only a start toward a separate Treasure Room; they forecast the segregation of special collections. As the Harry Elkins Widener Building approached completion, Robert Gould Shaw inspected it, and proposed to give to the University his collection of theatrical material, provided he could have room enough to care for it properly. He took over the southwest corner of the top floor and the stack floor beneath, establishing himself there as curator, with his assistants. He added a fund to pay future salaries of a staff, and to provide for additions as well as upkeep. This collection soon overflowed into adjoining rooms on both floors, when its principal rival was added to it by the bequest of Evert Jansen Wendell. Mr. Shaw was

closely followed by Frederick Lewis Gay, who was an insatiable reader of seventeenth century Puritan tracts, which he bought whenever he could find them. The Library already had more of these than it had been able to catalogue, and when Mr. Gay moved into a ground floor room in the new building with his books, he brought with him his secretary, who had previously made a record of all the Harvard titles that they were interested in. Meanwhile Daniel B. Fearing, long a principal contributor to Professor Morris Morgan's Persius collection, had looked about for a place for his more than 15,000 books, pamphlets, and postcards on fish, fishing and fishers. Somewhat later, Harry Harkness Flagler fitted out a room for the Poetry Collection, in honor of George Edward Woodberry, with provision for its special curator, who has charge of that portion of Miss Amy Lowell's books which the Library selected. Morris Gray contributed a special fund for contemporary poetry and for poetry talks which he desired to have given in the Library for undergraduates who might be interested.

These segregated collections, each with its special custodian under the direction of the Treasure Room, seem to me to point the way for the most effective future development of this side of the Harvard Library. The Theatre Collection shows what can be done, while the Poetry Room is equipped to meet a greater need of the College as a cultural, humanistic institution for the preparation of coming generations of efficient citizens. It is probably best that it is having a probationary period, the longer the better, during which the Library can feel its way toward the future when it will be able to carry out the far-sighted wishes of those to whom the Room owes its being. The oldest lesson taught by Harvard's experience is that it will get what it deserves in proportion to the faithfulness with which it does what its well-wishers desire.

THE FIRST CENTURY OF SCIENTIFIC BOOKS IN THE HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

By Frederick C. Kilgour

THE SCIENTIFIC world of the first half of the eighteenth century witnessed a bitter struggle between the proponents of Cartesian and Newtonian philosophy. This controversy formed the background of early eighteenth century science in the same manner that the present-day shift from the "classical" dynamics of Newton to the theories of relativity forms the interpretive setting of twentieth century science. The frontier of science advanced rapidly in the eighteenth century. To the group of scientists who searched in the wilderness Harvard contributed Professor John Winthrop (1714–1779), A.B. 1732, whom Professor S. E. Morison has described as ". . . the first important scientist or productive scholar on the teaching staff of Harvard College." The Library was also a factor in the advance in science which took place at Harvard during the eighteenth century; at the time of its first centennial it possessed a small but useful collection of scientific works.

Its scientific holdings during the first century of its existence can be accurately determined from the Harvard Library Catalogue and Supplements for the years 1723–1735. The main sources of this information are the *Catalogus Librorum Bibliothecae Collegij Harvardini Quod est Cantabrigiae in Nova Anglia* (Boston, 1723) and its supplements, *Continuatio Supplementi Catalogi Librorum Bibliothecae Collegij Harvardini* (Boston, 1725) and *Continuatio Catalogi Liborum Bibliothecae Collegij Harvardini. Ab Anno 1725, Ad Annum 1735* (Boston, 1735).

According to Mr. Alfred C. Potter, Librarian Emeritus, there are about 4100 volumes listed in the Catalogue and its two Supplements. Of this number approximately 370 volumes are works of science; in other words,

the scientific content of the Harvard College Library after one hundred years of growth was nine per cent of its total holdings. Mr. Potter has pointed out that the Harvard collection of more than four thousand volumes was for the most part theological in nature, that English literature was almost entirely lacking, and that with the exception of the classics the other humanities were also neglected. It is not surprising, however, that science should make such a comparatively good showing when one remembers that Harvard's second endowed professorship (1727) was in that field.

Many of the scientific titles listed in the Catalogues are classics. An example is the first translation from the Arabic of Apollonius' important work on conics, published in Latin at Oxford in 1710, Edmund Halley, the translator, having learned Arabic for the express purpose of making this notable work available to the Western World.

Perhaps the most interesting biological work on the list was William Harvey's *Exercitationes de Generatione Anamalium* (Amstelaedami, 1651) in which he attempted to prove the existence of the human ovum by inductive comparison based on good observation. Although Harvey was an Aristotelian, it was the splendid observations that he recorded in his *Exercitationes* that first seriously undermined the Aristotelian and Galenic theories of life, dominating biology until the second half of the seventeenth century. Harvey's views were later substantiated in 1828 when K. E. von Baer discovered the human egg.

Another book that deserves special mention is Isaac Newton's *Opticks* (London, 1704). The copy of this work listed in the Catalogue of 1723 — shelf-mark "19.3.20" — is now in the Treasure Room of the Harvard College Library. This work is important because it presents two of Newton's three great triumphs. The *Opticks* contains a discussion of white

light, the cause of color, reflection and refraction, all based on his corpuscular theory of light. The authority of Newton's name resulted in the complete dominance of optics by the corpuscular theory until Thomas Young and Augustin Fresnel revived Huygens' wave theory at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but Newton's theory of light is still an important factor of the present-day quanta theories. The second important point in connection with Newton's *Opticks* is not a feature of the main work. The second supplement appended to the abovementioned work is a mathematical tract entitled *Tractatus de Quadratura Curvarum*, in which Newton first presented the method of fluxions or the differential calculus that he had invented more than thirty years before.

Many other names of scientific giants are listed in the Harvard Catalogues of 1723–1735. Christian Huygens, Robert Boyle, René Descartes, Galen, Hippocrates, Pliny, John Ray, Abraham Ortelius, Richard Hackluit, Ptolemy, Tycho Brahe, John Kepler, and Euclid are a few of them.

Books *per se*, however, are quite worthless from the viewpoint of the history of learning. The important task is to delineate the relationship between the contents of the books and the human mind. To show that books were available is not enough, and to show that a specific book in a specific library was put to use is often impossible unless the original copy is extant. Presumably most of the 370 works of science were lost when the Harvard Library burned in 1764, since only six of the scientific books that were in the Harvard Library in 1735 are in existence today. None, with the exception of one volume, reveals any use during the period under consideration. It can be shown, however, that copies of the titles listed in the Catalogues were being used at Harvard during the second two decades of the eighteenth century.

For the use of scientific periodicals there is abundant evidence in various manuscripts of Nathan Prince, who received his A.B. in 1718 and was a tutor at Harvard from 1723 to 1742. Prince took notes from the early volumes of the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society, and also from those of the *Acta Euriditorum*. In 1723 the Library possessed volumes 1–11 (1665–1676) of the former, and the first seventeen volumes with two supplements (1682–1698) of the latter.

Books which were general introductions to science appear to have been very popular at Harvard at this time. Cotton Mather's *Christian Philosopher* (London, 1721), John Ray's *Wisdom of God Manifested in the Works of the Creation* (5th ed., London, 1709), and William Derham's *Physico-Theology* (London, 1714) are all good examples. Derham was a thorough-going Newtonian, and it is from Newton's viewpoint that he discusses atmosphere, light, gravity, and biology in his *Physico-Theology*, which is entered in the 1725 Supplement. This copy may very well have been the one to which the first Hollis Professor of Mathematics, Isaac Greenwood, A.B. 1721, refers on page 14 of his *Philosophical Discourse Concerning the Mutability and Changes of the Material World* (Boston, 1731). Another reader of this work by Derham was Jonathan Belcher, A.B. 1728, who carefully annotated it in his Commonplace Book during the Spring of 1727.

Like *Physico-Theology*, both *Christian Philosopher* and *The Wisdom of God in the Creation* are titles which have a theological ring, but the books were good introductions to the scientific knowledge of the day. Both discuss astronomy, geology, dynamics, meteorology, and biology to an appreciable extent. Mather and Ray, like Derham, were both Newtonians at a time when Newton's theories were far from generally accepted, particularly outside of England.

Ray's book is listed in the main Catalogue, and the

Christian Philosopher in the first Supplement, and that both Mather's and Ray's works were being used in the late 1720's is revealed in the Commonplace Books of two Harvard students. Jonathan Belcher finished "extracting" the *Christian Philosopher* on May 4, 1727, and at about the same time he was also reading *The Wisdom of God in the Creation*. During his freshman year John Winthrop took notes on these two books. Winthrop apparently did not use the Library's copy of Ray's book, however, for he recorded in his notes that he was reading the eighth edition, published in London in 1722, whereas the Harvard copy of the *Wisdom of God* was the fifth edition. Nevertheless, the Library was evidently able to supply the students with the books that they were using in their scientific reading.

Of the special sciences, geology and geography were popular at Harvard during this period. Thomas Robie, A.B. 1708, and tutor at Harvard from 1713 to 1723, studied Thomas Burnet's *Sacred Theory of the Earth*, and took notes from it that he wrote in the Commonplace Book which he kept during the years of his tutorship, calling the notes "Observations Concerning the Universal Deluge from Dr. Burnet's Theory of the Θ." The third edition of Burnet's book (London, 1697) is listed in the 1723 Catalogue. Burnet's very popular work was first published in Protestant England in 1681, when speculative theories explaining the Flood were rampant. According to Burnet the earth contained a central abyss, which was full of water. The wickedness of mankind resulted in the sun's rays splitting open the earth's crust so that the water in the abyss rushed forth and covered the world. It was this theory in which the Protestant, Mr. Robie, was interested.

Two similar geological books were being used at Harvard during this era. On page 14 of Isaac Greenwood's *Philosophical Discourse*, there is a reference to John Woodward's *Essay Towards a Natural History of*

the Earth, which was first published in 1695 and of which the London, 1726 edition was acquired by the Harvard Library sometime before 1735. William Whiston's *New Theory of the Earth*, which appeared the year after Woodward's *Essay*, was also used by Greenwood when he wrote his *Philosophical Discourse*. Another reader of Whiston's book was John Winthrop, who took notes from the *New Theory of the Earth* during his first year at Harvard. Like Burnet, both Woodward and Whiston assumed that the interior of the earth was full of water, and that it was the bursting forth of this water that caused Noah's Flood. Whiston got this subterranean water supply out of the abyss by the novel method of having a comet send its tail over the equator, and in some manner releasing the water, the comet at the same time causing a terrific rainstorm which completely flooded the earth. The Flood was likewise employed to explain the stratified formations of the earth's crust, the strata being the sediment from the Flood. The catastrophic theory, or the Neptunian theory as it later came to be known, was the dominating one until the end of the eighteenth century, at which time James Hutton laid the theoretical foundations of modern geology.

Another book, important for its geological aspects, was also in the Harvard Library and being used by Harvard men. John Ray's *Three Physico-Theological Discourses* furnished Thomas Robie with some of the theories which he employed to explain the cause of a meteor — actually a display of the aurora borealis — in his *Letter to a Certain Gentleman Desiring a Particular Account May be Given of a Wonderful Meteor that Appeared in New-England, on Decemb. 11, 1719, in the Evening* (Boston, 1719). Jonathan Belcher's interest in science led him also to read Ray's *Three Physico-Theological Discourses*. This book investigates the creation of the world, the general deluge, and the dis-

solution of the world. Mountains, sea fishes, bones and shells in the earth, fountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes are some of the subjects which Ray treated. The most interesting part of the able zoologist's book is his firm defense of his theory that fossils were of organic origin — an unpopular view at the end of the seventeenth century subsequently proved to be correct.

In the field of geography, Harvard possessed a copy of the 1672 Cambridge edition of Bernhardus Varenius' *Geographia Generalis*, which was first published in 1650. Varenius' *Geographia* was an excellent geography, which was reprinted for more than a century, and which Nathan Prince used extensively. Student interest in geography is evidenced by their notebooks which contain many extracts taken from the more popular books of travel.

Nathan Prince, whose contemporaries considered him "in mathematicks and natural philosophy superiour to any man in New England," worked with many books whose titles are entered in the Harvard Catalogues. In his manuscripts there are notes and excerpts taken from John Kersey's *Elements of Mathematical Art, Commonly Called Algebra*, Thomas Harriot's *Ars Analytica*, René Descartes' *Geometry*, Euclid's *Elements*, John Harris' *Lexicon Technicum*, and Jonas Moore's *New System of Mathematicks*. Copies of these books were in the Harvard Library in 1735. L. G. Simons as the result of a considerable amount of research has been able to show that Harvard students in the 1720's and 1730's were also using Kersey's, Euclid's, and Harris' works in addition to John Wallis' *Treatise of Algebra both Historical and Practical*. These mathematical works were good treatises on algebra, geometry, and logarithms, and their presence in the Library illustrates that Harvard was able to supply its students and instructors with the standard books of the period.

In astronomy, William Derham's *Astro-Theology*

(London, 1715) was a popular work. This book discusses the size of the universe, the number of heavenly bodies, attraction and gravity, heat and light, etc., its scientific basis being thoroughly Newtonian. Thomas Robie, a friend and correspondent of Derham, evidently obtained a copy of the *Astro-Theology* soon after it was published, as Robie's *Almanack* for the year 1716 contains an exposition on "Why it is Hottest in Summer when the Sun is vastly furthest from us; And Coldest in Winter when it is nearest" which he obtained from the footnote on pages 87-89 of his friend's book. Isaac Greenwood also used Derham's *Astro-Theology* in writing his *Philosophical Discourse* mentioned above. But the Harvard instructors were not the only men to read the *Astro-Theology*, for Jonathan Belcher took many extracts from it, which are in his notebook. Belcher, in his third undergraduate year at Harvard, began to read Derham's work on March 25, 1727 and "Finished Aprill 4: — 1727."

Another source from which Harvard students received a knowledge of Newton's dynamics was an iatromechanical treatise entitled *De Imperio Solis ac Lunae in Corpora Humana et Morbis inde Oriundis*, which was published in 1704. The author of this work, Richard Mead, was a physician who had learned Newton's theories and attempted to show that the heavenly bodies affected according to Newton's Laws not only one another but also the human body. Both the *Astro-Theology* and the "*De Imp. Lun. & Sol. in Corp. Hum.*," as Greenwood referred to it, were in the College Library in 1723. As has just been noted, Professor Greenwood and his successor, John Winthrop, used this second book.

That Harvard students and instructors were using the Newtonian works discussed above is significant evidence of the spread of Newtonian theories in the Colonies. The struggle for supremacy between the

Cartesian and Newtonian theories was a fierce one, which acquired nationalistic aspects. As Voltaire put it in the fourteenth letter of his *Lettres Écrites de Londres sur les Anglais*, written during his exile in England (1726–1729):

"Un François qui arrive à Londres, trouve les choses bien changées en Philosophie comme dans tout le reste. Il a laissé le Monde plein, il le trouve vuide. A Paris on voit l'Univers composé de Tourbillons, de Matière subtile; à Londres on ne voit rien de cela. Chez vous c'est la pression de la Lune qui cause le flux de la mer; chez les Anglais c'est la mer qui gravite vers la Lune. . . . Chez vos Cartesiens tout le fait par une impulsion, qu'on ne comprend gueres; chez M. Newton c'est par une attraction dont on ne connoît pas mieux la cause. A Paris vous vous figurez la Terre faite comme un Melon; à Londres elle est applatie des deux côtez."

It was Voltaire who first succeeded in popularizing Newton's theories in France with his *Elémens de la Philosophie de Newton* published in 1738. As has been shown above, men at Harvard had been reading Newtonian dynamics twenty years before this, and they had not only read about the new theories, but had also used them. Thomas Robie, in his *Almanack* for 1720, published astronomical tables which had been ". . . calculated from the latest Observations by Sir Isaac Newton's Rules."

The part that the Harvard Library played in supplying the College with the books from which the instructors and students pursued the new philosophy was undoubtedly a considerable one. Of course several of the Newtonian works used at Harvard during this period are not listed in the Catalogues, but the evidence supplied above is sufficient to show that the Library was an important factor in Harvard's progressive scientific knowledge of the first half of the eighteenth century.

THE SECOND HARVARD HALL LIBRARY
1766–1840

By John Perkins Brown

After the Library was removed to Gore Hall in 1841 the new Harvard Alumni Association secured permission to remodel Harvard Hall for its own uses, with the result that extensive alterations took place. Again in 1870 and even as late as 1938 further remodeling occurred, until the present day building bears little resemblance to that of 1765. As the representative of two of several groups of Alumni, banded together to form a "Society for the Preservation and Restoration of Harvard Hall," the writer of this article, Mr. John Perkins Brown, will endeavor to show in the following pages something of the greatness of the second Harvard Hall, and especially of its Library.

IN THE "Massachusetts Magazine" for June, 1790 there is the following description of Harvard Hall and the uses served by it at that time: —

"It contains no private chambers, but is wholly devoted to publick uses. On the lower floor at the East end is the *Hall*, which serves as a dining room, and is paved with stone. The west end is a *Chapel* for devotions, lectures and exhibitions, ornamented with two handsome brass chandeliers. Over the Chapel, on the second floor, is the *Library*, containing thirteen thousand books, disposed in ten alcoves, in each of which is a window, and over the windows inscriptions to perpetuate the names of the benefactors. This apartment being under the care of a Librarian, is kept in the neatest order. The books are numbered and registered, and a catalogue of them is now printing. A committee of the corporation and overseers inspect the library, once in every year, with the most minute attention, to see that no book be lost or unaccounted for. The floor of the library is covered with a rich carpet, and the walls are ornamented with various paintings and prints.

"At the East end, on the same floor, and over the Hall, is the *Philosophy Room*, one side of which is hung

with full length paintings of four eminent benefactors, *Thomas Hollis*, Esq.; *Thomas Hancock*, Esq.; *Nicholas Boylstone*, Esq.; and Doctor *Ezekiel Hersey*. In the centre of this group is a bust of the late Earl of Chatham, and a painting of Vesuvius in flame. The other sides are ornamented with the masterly prints of Copley. The floor of this apartment is also covered with a rich carpet, for which, as well as that in the library, we are indebted to the munificence of his Excellency Governour Hancock. In this chamber are held the meetings of the corporation and overseers, and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and here the professor of natural philosophy delivers his experimental lectures. Here also is deposited the large and elegant Planetarium constructed by the ingenious Mr. *Joseph Pope*, and purchased of him for the college by a lottery.

"In a lesser apartment adjoining to this, is kept the *Apparatus* for experimental philosophy, consisting of a great number of instruments and machines of the best workmanship, and completely adapted to all the purposes of mathematicks, philosophy, and astronomy.

"In another apartment is the *Museum*, containing a large and valuable collection of curiosities, natural and artificial, from all parts of the globe, which is daily augmenting by donations from the friends of science. In the same apartment is kept the Museum of the Academy."

In this brief description we have the earliest picture of what was probably the most "elegant" college building that had been built in the Colonies up to 1765. But because of the many thoughtless or misguided mutilations of the building in the nineteenth century, only those students of Harvard history familiar with the Du Simitière drawings and the various eighteenth century paintings now existing could possibly guess that behind the "close porch" of 1842 and the 1870 wings there is still much of that Harvard Hall of 1765

whose fine proportions and beautiful detail were so admired, even as late as 1812, by such a casual observer as Pierre de Sales La Terrière.

The crowning feature of Harvard Hall was the library, occupying the west half of the second floor. This room, as can be seen from the Du Simitière plans, was built in the traditional English Collegiate manner with a central open space eighteen feet wide from which opened ten alcoves for books, each alcove containing an outside window.

At the west end of this open section, directly opposite the still existing pedimented doorway, was a fireplace set in a protruding chimney breast, flanked on either side by beautifully carved Ionic pilasters. This chimney breast, shown in our drawing, is still intact, but with the fireplace bricked up, and the panelled over mantel now covered with blackboards.

A "grate entablature" (i.e., a full entablature) still existing at the ends of the room, ran around the open part of the library in front of the alcoves. Supporting this entablature, at the end of each alcove, and attached to the bookcases, were the fluted pilasters which are now set against the outside walls. At the height of the window sills, the present panelled wainscot ran around the room, and was probably repeated in the lower parts of the bookcases. Over each of the shuttered windows, in large gold letters, were inscribed the names of the donors of books with the sums given by them. Here were seen such names as Dean Berkeley, East Apthorpe [rector of Christ Church, Cambridge], Barlow Trecothick [Lord Mayor of London], the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and Thomas Hancock. No less than three alcoves were inscribed with the name of Thomas Hollis.

When we realize that in 1763 the library at Yale, which, according to President Clap in 1766, consisted of

about four thousand volumes, "well furnished with ancient authors, but not many authors who have wrote within these thirty years," was housed in the attic of the new chapel (where it remained for forty years), Harvard of 1766 may well have been proud of its library, and travelers excused for their extravagant descriptions of it.

But to return to the general appearance of the library, we find in the Library Laws of 1765 that "All shelves and books shall be covered by either brass wiring, netting or glass sashes to be lock'd upon 'em & the Librarian to keep the keys." Also, "For the accommodation of gentlemen who may be desirious to peruse books in the Library, there shall be a small table & a seat in each Alcove, also a pair of steps." A written catalogue of all the books was printed and a copy chained in each alcove of the library.

To show the value attached to this extraordinary collection of books, we quote again from the Laws. "No person shall go into the Library, without the Librarian or his substitute; and no other person, except the Pres.^{dt} shall have a key to the Library, & this to be us'^{d} only on extraordinary occasions at his discretion. No academical exercises shall be allow'd in the Library. Nor shall any candle or lamp be ever carried into it."

As we have seen before, the floor was covered with a "rich carpet" but this probably means a large rug in the central portion of the room. While we have shown the walls above the wainscot to be painted or tinted plaster, they may have been, like those of the Philosophy Room, covered with the "rich paper" which John Hancock gave to that room. We do not know what were the "various paintings and prints" which ornamented the walls, but it is safe to assume that they were the usual "antique views" and "ancient maps" which were seen in the English libraries at that time.

Set in corners of the room may have been the "two curious Egyptian mummies" which John Greenwood gave to the College after the fire. And there must surely have been a mounted globe such as we have shown in our drawing. In other words, it was a very pleasant room to study in and far removed, in its convenience and scope of material, from the little attic over the New Chapel at Yale.

Besides the Great Library, occupying the western half of the second floor, there was also a smaller room, as shown in the Du Simitière plans, at the southern end of the second floor hall. Its use is shown in the Library Laws of 1765.

"There shall be a part of the Library kept distinct from the rest as a smaller Library for the more common use of the College. When there are two or more setts of books, the best shall be deposited in the great or small Library, at the discretion of the Comm.^{tee} for placing the books."

While the Library was open for students on Wednesdays in May, June, September and October, in the winter months it was open only once a month, "when a fire is kept in the Library." The fear of fire was so great in the minds of the College authorities, that one of the Library Laws was devoted almost entirely to the use of fires in the Library. ". . . That a fire be made in it one day in a month, from the last of October to the last of April, vacation times alwaies excepted. The Librarian or his substitute shall constantly be present, while there is a fire, and shall see it thoroughly extinguish'd by day-light."

But even though the library fireplace was large and firewood plentiful, this original method of heating the room must have been most inadequate in the cold winter months, and in 1812 we find a vote of the Corporation. "Voted. That the President and Mr. Lowell be a Committee for devising some cheap and

economical method for warming the Library." In a later vote in the same year, we find that Charles Bulfinch (who once asked for and was refused a Chair of Architecture at Harvard) supplied one of his ingenious and artistic stoves, of which the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has several original drawings.

As we have stated before, candles and lamps were barred from the library, and were of course unnecessary as the room was closed up and locked at five o'clock.

But we must return to the history of the Library. Although Governor Bernard and his Committee had thought they had planned sufficient space for books for years to come, donations of books continued to pour in until both the "great and small libraries" were piled high with precious books and documents.

In 1812, the College felt the need of another building and asked Charles Bulfinch to submit three sets of plans for University Hall. In the plans accepted there was provision for a new Chapel and four dining halls, and so the space in Harvard Hall occupied by these rooms was left vacant. In the summer of 1814 it was decided to remodel the first floor of Harvard Hall into much needed extra class rooms. Accordingly at Mr. Farrar's request, the pews and other fittings of the Chapel were removed and this room was converted into a large philosophy room and museum. The Hall or Commons was also turned over to lectures and "exhibitions." The space on the second floor at the east end of the building, which had been used for a Philosophy chamber or "apparatus room" and the two smaller class rooms to the west of it, was remade into ten more alcoves for books. The pilasters and trim of the Chapel were used to match the woodwork of the Library across the hall. In this state the second floor of Harvard remained until the Library was moved to the new Gore Hall.

It is pleasant to be able to announce that a movement

is now under way to restore Harvard Hall to its 18th century charm and beauty, and to preserve it for all time as one of the most outstanding collegiate buildings of the 18th century in this country.

CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION AT HARVARD, 1878–1938

By Thomas Franklin Currier

"THE USEFULNESS of any library depends largely on the character of its catalogue." These words are on the second page of the first report which Justin Winsor presented to the President of Harvard University in 1878, and while the University Library has since expanded from the somewhat less than half a million volumes and pamphlets of that year to the four millions of today, and while the demands and methods of research have grown and changed, it still is true that the Library could not function smoothly a single day were it not for the presence of that ever ready tool, the card catalogue. Another feature of the Library which contributes hugely to convenience and to saving of time and effort of those who carry on extended investigations within its walls is the classification by subjects of the books in the stacks. In Mr. Winsor's time this feature was rudimentary, the slight attention then given to this aspect being indicated by the fact that in Mr. Winsor's report, to which reference has just been made, no less than four and one half pages are devoted to cataloguing problems while the matter of classification is barely mentioned. Today the dependence on the Library's classification of its books is so great that occasionally an investigator remarks that he seldom

uses the catalogue, depending instead on his familiarity with the shelf arrangement of books in his field of research. This remark, although flattering, is none the less disturbing to those to whom is deputed the work of cataloguing and classifying; flattering if indicating that the carefully planned classification schemes suit the needs of our clientele, disturbing because we of the staff are only too well aware of the causes and accidents which contribute to separate material which the user of our stacks would have every reason to expect us to bring together.

A carefully documented and exhaustive history of the development of the catalogues and of the classification systems that have existed in the Harvard Library would take far more time to compile than is available for this number of *Library Notes* and more space would be required than can be applied to these features of our Library. A survey of this nature would indeed be of great interest, particularly to the student of library antiquities, and would start with the all too sketchy catalogue of John Harvard's books and include a reference to the janitor who appealed to the president of the college for an increase of pay because he was helping prepare the catalogue. However interesting and valuable an exhaustive study might be, no more can be undertaken now than to give a hasty survey of the development and changes in the systems of cataloguing during the past fifty years, or roughly from the time of Mr. Winsor's administration until today.

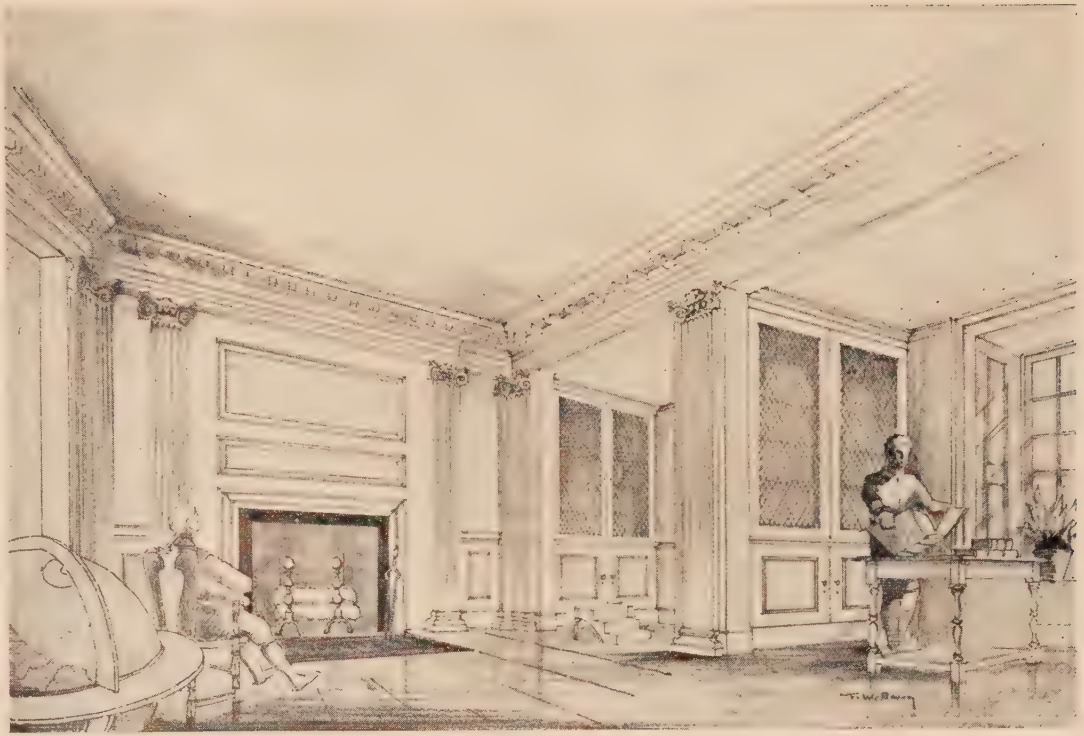
When Mr. Winsor assumed his duties as librarian in 1877 the original card catalogue, which had been established about 1847 and was composed of cards 9½ inches long, had been all but superseded by a new card catalogue, begun in 1861, on cards 5 × 2 inches, evolved by the joint efforts of Ezra Abbott and Charles Ammi Cutter. The old "long card" catalogue was continued, however, in active use as an official catalogue and,

through the insertion of order slips and other cards, was maintained as such in the staff rooms until the compilation of the present official-union catalogue just previous to the opening of the present library building in 1915. Ezra Abbott's catalogue, which was installed in the public delivery room, was divided into two portions, author and subject. The subject half was a classed catalogue of original form devised by Mr. Abbott and was later commonly described as an alphabetico-classed catalogue. Its characteristic feature consisted in the fact that the many divisions and subdivisions were not arranged in a logical and systematic fashion, corresponding to an ideal classification of human knowledge, but that a rather large number of main headings were arbitrarily selected and arranged in alphabetic order. The alphabet started off with such main headings as Accidents, Acoustics, Aesthetics, Agriculture; the selection of the headings was controlled by purely practical considerations. Each main class was broken into subdivisions, the subdivisions in turn being arranged under the main head in alphabetic order, and in turn broken up into minor topics again arranged in alphabetic sequence. This form of catalogue was eminently successful in presenting the resources of the Library in clear-cut fashion and each field of research could be surveyed with tolerable ease. The usefulness of the catalogue was increased as time went on by the inclusion of titles acquired by the special and department libraries, each title being given the same minute attention as was bestowed on the books belonging to the main library. As this catalogue was perfected and developed, the need became greater and greater for an index to the numerous specific topics included, and in 1891 the Library published, as the second volume of its *Special Publications*, an index to the subject catalogue which was a pioneer work in this field and a forerunner of many lists of subject headings

that have since been compiled elsewhere. Before this index could be printed it was necessary to evolve a method by which each topic could be designated in the index without the awkwardness of repeating in full the heading and subdivision under which a given topic might be found. To meet this need, arbitrary numbers were assigned to the main headings, care being taken to leave generous gaps in numbering between the successive headings in order to provide for future insertions. The subdivisions were then assigned decimal numbers and in many cases the specific topics were also assigned specific decimals; frequently, however, a plus sign added to the nearest preceding number would show that the topic in question would be found in the catalogue in its alphabetic order immediately following that number. Soon a system of guide cards and blocks was installed in the catalogue trays, every number and decimal number assigned being provided with its special guide. This was before the days of library bureaus and standardized library stationery, and modern tab guide cards had not come into use; in fact, the trays as built were too shallow for any form of tab guide, so it was necessary to use a stiff manila card for the bulk of the guides, the upper edges being colored red, blue, or green to indicate the hierarchy of the divisions, the proper headings being written near the top edge in a clear "cataloguers' " writing. Guides for the main headings and for the principal subdivisions were made of wooden blocks about an eighth of an inch thick, slips of colored paper being pasted over the upper edge and the name of the topic or division neatly lettered thereon.

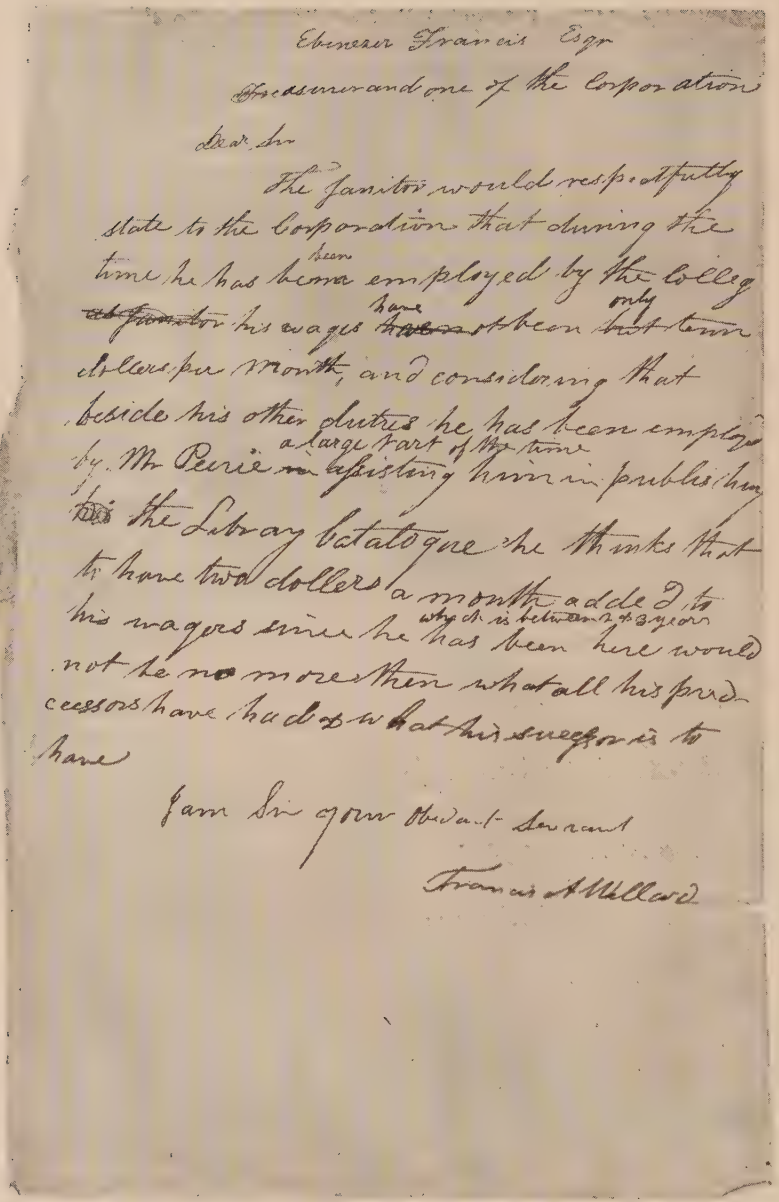
The necessity for a subject catalogue and the desirability of the classed form in those days is patent, when it is remembered that the library's books were not at that time subjected to a system of close classification. In some cases, collections received en bloc were kept together in one of the alcoves which then surrounded old

Gore Hall; in other cases an alcove was set apart for a broad subject and the books given numbers indicating the number of the alcove and the shelf, but not individual book numbers. No opportunity was provided for placing a recent acquisition immediately beside the book in the Library most nearly related to it in subject matter. The catalogue then was the key that unlocked the treasures of the Library to the uninitiated although, of course, in those days when the Library was so small, it was not impossible for a diligent person to dispense with the aid of the catalogue, and, through browsing and actually handling the volumes, to become familiar with the literature available in any field. With this type of library organization it was natural that the separate processes of cataloguing and of fitting the books into their places on the shelves should be the work of separate departments. In those days the "classifier" was the person who assigned subject headings for the classed catalogue and the person who assigned new books to their proper shelf locations was an assistant who "set up" books in a "shelf" department. When my own service at the Library commenced in 1894, each book came first to a classifier who assigned a subject heading, then to the shelf department for setting up, then to a cataloguer for the preparation of the card, and to the reviser for final revision before printing, for the major part of the accessions were then provided with printed catalogue cards. Since the classifier was the first to inspect the book and the results of his investigations were noted down on a classification slip, passed along in the book, it became natural for those who took the book after the classifier to lean on his suggestions as to subject and selection of main entry. This separation of cataloguing, subject heading work, and "setting up" was a good arrangement in the nineties when the Library was more or less an overgrown college library with few exhaustive scholars'



F. W. Bang, del. *From research by John Perkins Brown*

THE COLLEGE LIBRARY IN HARVARD HALL, ABOUT 1790



Ebenezer Francis Esqr

Treasurer and one of the Corporation

Dear Sir

The Janitor would respectfully state to the Corporation that during the time he has been employed by the Colleg as Janitor his wages have been but only ten dollers per month, and considering that beside his other duties he has been employed by Mr Peirce a large part of his time assisting him in publishing the Library Catalogue he thinks that to have two dollers a month added to his wages since he has been here would not be no more than what all his predecessors have had & what his successor is to have (why it is between 2 & 3 year)

I am Sir your Obedt Servant

Francis A Willard

THE JANITOR'S DRAFT PETITION REQUESTING EXTRA PAY FOR "ASSISTING" WITH THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE, AUGUST, 1828

collections, those notable being American history, Greek and Latin authors, and a rather recently developed folk-lore collection. With the expansion of the Library from 1897 to 1914 and the vast influx of comprehensive collections in many fields, the interrelation of the processes of cataloguing and classification became more and more involved and in 1913 the two departments were combined under one head, the two processes having since been carried on as one.

With the addition of a new wing to Gore Hall in 1877, which provided hugely increased stack room, it became possible to start the vast labor of reclassifying the books in order to facilitate their use. Unfortunately, the first step was false, in that when the first classes were formed a system of book numbering was adopted which assigned to each book a fixed location in the stack. Thus the number 10234.15 would indicate the tenth row on the second floor, the third section of the row, the fourth shelf (from the bottom), the fifteenth book on the shelf. When the books on a specific topic filled less than a shelf this system worked beautifully, but when one shelf expanded into several, the complications that arose are obvious. This "fixed location" method was applied to American history, English, French, and German literatures, classical philology, linguistics, and folk-lore. Of these subjects, American history and classical philology were later reclassed; for the other six groups an ingenious formula was, in later years, applied to the book numbering which transformed it from a fixed location to an expansive system, but the staff of today is still hampered in attempting to pour new wine into the old bottles of the "fixed" classifications introduced at that period. In 1882, when the Greek and Latin authors were rearranged, an expansive system, still in successful use, was introduced for these two groups. From the late eighties until the opening of the Widener building in 1915, the labor of reclassi-

fication went forward at first sporadically and then with ever increasing speed, the acquisition of a notable collection being always the impulse to the establishment of a new group. It has ever been the object to create a system of classification that would divide the books along lines corresponding to divisions of the departments of instruction in the college; great freedom has been taken, in addition, in establishing arbitrary groups whenever the Library has received or built up a notable collection. Thus the acquisition of the library of Count Paul Riant in 1900 was the occasion for bringing together all our books and pamphlets on the crusades and on Turkish history and establishing two special classes having the designations "Crus" and "Ott." Furthermore, small treasure room classes are frequently established in order to keep together collections relating to or made by individuals; examples are the Norton and the Sumner books designated respectively as "Nor" and "Sum," in each of these two cases the books thus brought together comprising the rare, choice and notable books from the libraries of these two men, other volumes from the same collections being distributed to their appropriate classes in the regular classed stacks. To sum up the policy in a word, the Harvard system of classification provides the classes common to all schemes of practical classification with the addition of numerous arbitrary and special groups which necessity or convenience may dictate. The class marks used as a part of the book number are always mnemonic as "US" for American history, "FA" for fine arts.

The period from 1911 to 1915 will be remembered as a hectic period. In 1911 plans were initiated, looking toward a reorganization of the card catalogues and meanwhile, with the prospects of a new building, the work of reclassification was pushed to its utmost. Following the general adoption of a standard sized catalogue card by libraries in this and foreign countries it

became more and more apparent that the Harvard Library was hindered in taking part in and receiving benefits from the coöperative library movements of the day; moreover, the plans for the new building made it imperative that in addition to the public card catalogue, which would be on the floor above the library's work rooms, a catalogue should be established downstairs for staff use, duplicating to a large extent the public catalogue. The reports of the catalogue department during this time explain in detail the progress of this huge labor. Suffice it to say that over three million cards were handled and for the public catalogue alone more than a million new cards were prepared, of which about a half were newly typed by a group of typists pounding away for dear life during these busy months. It may well be imagined how frequently the processes of replacing old cards by new cards purchased from the Library of Congress, the copying of other cards, the changing of call numbers on countless cards as the result of the labors of those who were reclassifying sections all conflicted each with the other and it is surprising that more cases of confusion and error were not introduced than have been revealed by subsequent use of the two catalogues. On top of all this confusion, in the early summer of 1915, the decision was reached to combine the alphabetico-classed catalogue with the author catalogue, thus producing a modern dictionary catalogue of the form adopted by nearly all American libraries. During that summer the whole cataloguing staff was turned into this job although the task had been lightened to some degree by the fact that in 1910 cards had already been removed from the classed catalogue such as would, in a normal dictionary catalogue, be arranged under place names; these had been set aside to form a "place" catalogue, which was, in 1915, merged into the new dictionary catalogue.

Just before moving into the Widener building the

new official catalogue took on a new feature in that it became a union catalogue, embracing not only titles in the College Library and the many Harvard special and departmental libraries, but also all the cards contained in the huge depository catalogue of Library of Congress titles which had been of such use to the Library in the phases of reorganization. This combination in one file of the Library of Congress titles and the Harvard titles has proved a valuable and time-saving asset to our work and to those who consult this file. To the student, it frequently points out automatically that the title he seeks, while not in the Harvard libraries, is available in Washington; to our Order Department it provides a check on many titles ordered; for those concerned with the acquisition and cataloguing of books it reveals, without the necessity of searching in a second (depository) catalogue, information about books and authors; and it informs the cataloguer of the numerous cases where a card may be purchased from the Library of Congress, thus obviating the necessity of expensive cataloguing by our own staff.

There has been a tendency of late years to broaden the scope of the department that originally was concerned simply with the duties of cataloguing and classification. The one cataloguer to whom was assigned the duty of cataloguing serials in 1915 was given additional assistants until her department developed into a full-fledged serial division functioning as part of the department of classification and cataloguing; furthermore, the character of the new official-union catalogue invited the assumption of new duties in the matter of book accessioning and now gift lots are turned directly over to the department of classification and cataloguing without the intervention of a special accessions department. The processes of examining individual books or a collection with a view to the discovery and rejection of duplicates, and the processes of cataloguing and classi-

fication are now combined and it is believed that not only are the results better but that there is a decided economy of labor obtained. In other ways the scope of the department has broadened by a greater emphasis in division of labor by subject rather than by process; this is particularly noted in the work of the education division that has built up and cared for what may be the most comprehensive collection in existence of materials for research in the history of American education, and in the Slavic Division which is entrusted with order, catalogue, and reference work in this field.

This exposition should not close without a few words on the Harvard printed catalogue cards. As early as 1871 Mr. Winsor, as librarian of the Boston Public Library, was printing his catalogue titles. It is not surprising then that, with Mr. Winsor as the librarian of Harvard, the printing of book accessions to the Harvard libraries in a monthly bulletin should, in 1888, suggest using the same setting of types for the purpose of printing catalogue cards. Although the accessions lists were discontinued in the Bulletin in 1894, the printing of cards for catalogue use still went on, more suitable fonts of type being introduced for the purpose. This series of printed cards continued until 1910 when plans for the reorganization of the catalogues were in the air, and in the fall of the next year a new series of printed cards was initiated in connection with the other processes of reorganization. The printing of this second series of cards proceeded alphabetically and provided for certain older and unusual titles for which it was thought there might be a market for the resulting cards among libraries; it included titles in several collections that had in past years been acquired en bloc and represented, somewhat inadequately, by cards in the official catalogue only. The end of the alphabet was reached and the series completed in 1927.

Who can forecast the future? Will the student in

the year 2038 be concerned only with reading microfilms on which has been gathered for his individual use all that has been printed and written on a given subject? Will the card catalogue itself be on film or will the processes of reproduction and printing be such that each student may possess, if he so desires, a complete union catalogue of books available, these catalogues kept up to date by periodic cumulation? For the present, at least, it is our duty to gather in, store, and classify the printed records of the past and depend on our card catalogues to point out with the least effort and delay where each book, big or little, may be found; it is our duty also, from the subject side, to orient the investigator even though he must depend on or himself compile the exhaustive bibliography which precedes his finished research. Demands for admission to our stacks and the constant use of our catalogues prove clearly that the processes of cataloguing and classifying must still continue indefatigably whatever the future may have in store for us and the words of Mr. Winsor written in 1878 are to a large extent true of a scholar's collection like our own, "The usefulness of any library depends largely on the character of its catalogue."

THE LIBRARY'S FIRST BOOK FUND

By Philip Hofer

Acknowledgment of the following article was especially pleasant to the Editors, since it comes from the pen of one who, on more than one occasion as friend of the Library has generously enriched our resources in several fields.

IN THE PRESENT day when the Harvard Libraries long so keenly for more endowment, or current funds towards the purchase of books, it is fitting to recall, in grateful recognition, the first fund received for such a purpose.

It was five hundred pounds bequeathed in 1774 by an Englishman, Thomas Hollis, called "of Lincoln's Inn" to distinguish him from the other members of his family of the same name, who, through four generations, were such generous patrons of the struggling college and its library. Neither this Thomas Hollis nor the others attended the college. There is no record that they even visited it. But they were unfailing in their interest, which they expressed in money, books, and plenty of sound, if sometimes severe, advice. The benefactions of Thomas Hollis of Lincoln's Inn seem to have been particularly opportune. For when the Harvard Library burned in 1764, and only four hundred four volumes contained in it were saved, a great box of books which he had recently sent escaped, because it had been temporarily stored elsewhere. Finally, in his will was the five hundred pound legacy which is the subject of this short note.

A contemporary comment on the bequest contained in a letter from Andrew Eliot, Secretary of the Board of Overseers, dated 14 September, 1774, is here quoted for the first time. This letter, which belonged to the late Professor Chester Noyes Greenough, was recently given to the Archives by Mrs. Greenough. "Our good friend

Mr. Hollis is dead," writes Andrew Eliot. "he has left £500 stg. to the College to be laid out in books. Two or three such benefactors would be sufficient to endow a college. . . ." His words are strangely significant. Small as the sum may seem today, it was the Library's sole purchasing fund for more than a generation, and, even after the Shapleigh bequest (1801), it furnished half the Library's book income till the year 1844! The astonishing fact is that the fund is still intact today, having survived wars, depressions, and inflations, and having yielded a steady income from which literally thousands of books have been bought. Indeed, it has even slightly appreciated, if present exchange relations are at all comparable, since it amounted to $2,677.68 as of June thirtieth last. Few institutions or governments can match this record of financial management over a period of one hundred sixty-five years!

But these figures alone do not tell the whole story. It will be well to note a few of the books which have come lately to Harvard through the Hollis fund. This will prove that the Library has been quite as aware of its responsibility as the Treasurer's office, and has sought to buy the kind of book that Thomas Hollis would have wished to purchase if he were still alive. In particular, Harvard has been trying to replace the books which were lost in the disastrous fire of 1764. A very rare item in this category is Nicholas Faret's "The honest man; or the art to please in court," London, 1632, which was purchased in 1937. Another is Taylor's "Number and Names of all the Kings of England and Scotland," 1649. In 1935 alone twenty-six books listed in Pollard's "Short-Title Catalogue of English Books 1475–1640" were acquired, of which there were no copies in the Library. At another time, a series of very important English broadsides of the Civil War and Commonwealth periods were purchased. Not only might Thomas Hollis himself have selected

these books and leaflets, but they are of distinct importance today for modern scholarship.

Some day soon a full story of the Hollis fund must be published. But in the meanwhile, this brief account will serve to prove to Harvard's friends that the University knows how to guard its gifts, and to expend them wisely, over the generations.

THE HARVARD LIBRARY UNDER JUSTIN WINSOR
1877–1897

By Frank Carney

JUSTIN WINSOR became Librarian in September 1877. He succeeded John Langdon Sibley, who had served as Assistant Librarian in 1825–26, again from 1841 to 1856, and as Librarian from 1856 until 1877, when failing eyesight caused him to resign. Mr. Winsor had been Superintendent of the Boston Public Library from 1866 until coming to Harvard, and had had several years' experience in administration before taking up his duties here.

The new extension to Gore Hall had just been completed, and with this extension many problems had to be solved. For the first time in American library history a shelving for compact book storage had been constructed. This stack embodied ideas Mr. Winsor had advocated as early as 1872 in one of his Boston Public Library reports. In this report he recommended double-faced cases eight feet high for compact storage, and in 1876 further extended this idea by suggesting additional cases above them. Undoubtedly these suggestions for the compact storage of books exercised some influence

on the architects who planned the Gore Hall stacks, and on President Eliot who approved the plans. Mr. Winsor therefore deserves to share in the credit for the development of the stack which has become standard for the storage of books in all modern libraries.

This new stack was a great improvement over the old Gore Hall alcove system, where the shelves were about fifteen feet high, and required the use of a ladder. It had six floors, each being about seven and one half feet high, with twenty-eight double-faced rows of shelving. Each row possessed either eight or nine divisions. At the end of each eight-row section a table and chair were placed so that professors or any students who had access to the shelves might sit and read. This modest beginning was the forerunner of the present system of cubicles so conveniently placed in Widener. The floor consisted of an iron grille to allow light in the aisles, and for better ventilation. This arrangement worked out very well, but when someone with muddy shoes walked above you, a shower of dirt dropped on your head. The shelves were of wood, held in place by angle irons inserted in notches in the section uprights. While modern stacks have made some changes in detail, and have eliminated wooden shelves and grille floors, the basic principle of this original stack remains.

With the building of the new stacks came the problem of a better arrangement of the books and a change in the numbering system so that each book might be assigned its own number. The old system did not give each book a separate number. The alcoves were numbered from 1 to 51. Each shelf in an alcove was also numbered. All the books on a particular shelf had the alcove and shelf number, but no individual number. It was therefore necessary to give the title as well as the shelf mark for any book. Mr. Winsor had to decide what plan of classification to follow. Mr. Melvil Dewey had recently devised a shelf classification and had fre-

quently consulted with Mr. Winsor in regard to adoption of his plan in the Harvard Library. He favored the fixed location numbering, however, while Mr. Dewey's plan was a relative one. Mr. Winsor had in mind that the best classification for a college library was one which would conform to the courses of study given in the college. His decision was a wise one and that has been the basis for all subsequent shelf classifications. In 1878 Mr. George F. Arnold was appointed Curator of the shelves to carry on the work of reclassification. He continued at this work until 1882, when ill health forced him to retire. During his administration about 70,000 volumes were classified.

When the shelf classification was undertaken the books were numbered according to the fixed shelf location. Space was left on the shelves in the various classified groups to provide for the increase of volumes in each; but as it was impossible to know in advance where the increase would occur, certain shelves soon became crowded. It was Mr. Winsor's idea that when this occurred, the books could be placed in the next corresponding section. This did not work out as well as he thought; so he finally consented to a movable classification. This plan, while providing for an indefinite extension of the various groups, mixed up the sequence of the classification. The sections in each row were all numbered from the same end, the nine-row sections from one to nine and the eight-row sections from two to nine. The old classification always followed from left to right, so that on alternate rows there was a reverse numbering beginning with section nine. Had the sections been numbered from left to right, the classified groups could have been changed from a fixed location system to a movable one without disturbing their arrangement. However, in practice the method had not proved very troublesome for users of the shelves, who soon became accustomed to the location of the books. The difficulty came later

when the groups were rearranged, at a considerable expense, under the new movable system.

When the fixed location numbering broke down it was decided to assign a class designation and a running number. The first of these groups arranged under Mr. Lane's direction was the Greek authors. This group was given the class designation "G" followed by a letter and a number indicating the author, with a dot number for the individual book. The Latin authors were arranged later with the designation "L." From that time on all classified groups were given similar class designations (US for United States, etc.) followed by a running number.

Mr. Winsor was very much interested in maps and became a leading authority on this subject as may be seen by examining the cartographical section of his "Narrative and Critical History of America." The Library possessed a very fine collection of rare old maps acquired in 1818. This collection, numbering about 10,000, was made by Professor Ebeling of Hamburg. These maps, which were arranged in wooden cases with sliding shelves, had never been listed. Mr. Winsor had them placed in heavy manila portfolios with printed labels, and a running number assigned to the collection. Each geographical group had its number and each map a dot number so that it could be easily found from the index. Henry Clay Badger was appointed Curator of Maps and made the index to this collection.

Previous to Mr. Winsor's librarianship there were no well defined departments in the Harvard Library. One Assistant Librarian and a few clerical assistants carried on the detailed work. When the East stack extension to Gore Hall was built, the entrance was placed between old Gore Hall and the stacks. This entrance led directly into a room containing the Delivery desk and the Card catalogue. Back of the catalogue was a small stack that contained encyclopedias and other reference

books on the floor level, and above them a selected group of much used periodicals.

In Gore Hall book delivery was a cumbersome affair. The borrower looked up the book he wanted in the catalogue, tipped the card on end in the drawer (cards were not punched and secured by a rod in those days), rang a bell on the top of the catalogue to summon the "page," who had to memorize the title and shelf mark, and look through an entire shelf to find the book wanted. It is not to be wondered at that he sometimes forgot the title and came back with the story that the book was "out." It was, however, good memory training for the "page," who came to know the titles and shelf marks of many scholarly books, even if he did not know much about their contents. When the borrower received the book he had called for and wanted to take it from the Library, he went to the Delivery desk where he had previously been assigned a page in a large ledger. After giving his page number, the book was entered by the attendant with the shelf number and title. When this was done the pen was handed to the borrower, who signed his name against the entry. This slow system was changed by Mr. Winsor, who introduced the slip system, somewhat as at present, except that the slips were smaller and made of heavy manila paper, and were not printed.

Mr. Thomas J. Kiernan was the first Superintendent of Circulation. He acted also as Reference Librarian and had charge of the Library binding.

The removal of the catalogue cases from the Gore Hall reading room to the Delivery room left space for more tables for the use of readers. The reclassification of books in the new stack left many vacant shelves that were now used for the shelving of reserved books. These books were selected by professors and kept in the Library to be taken out only over night. Mr. Winsor deserves much credit for inaugurating this important

branch of the Library service. The reserved book system gave easy access to the essential books useful in the various courses of study, and was the beginning of the present extensive collection of reserved books in the Widener reading room.

When stacks were placed in the lower part of old Gore Hall, to provide for the rapidly increasing collection of books in the College Library, the reading room was located above them. This gave an opportunity to extend the reserved book system from its modest beginning. Mr. Walter B. Briggs, who had begun his career under Mr. Kiernan in the Delivery department, was placed in charge, and served as Superintendent of the Reading Room from 1896 to 1904.

With the rapid increase of volumes in the Library it was necessary to place the Catalogue Department on a more formal basis. The Library had had a card catalogue which preceded the one started in 1861 by Professor Abbot. This catalogue was known as the "old or official" catalogue. It contained cards about nine and one half inches long and approximately one and one half inches high. The cards in this catalogue contained, besides the author and title, information concerning the date of receipt and the source from which the book came to the Library. In the "new" catalogue, so called, the cards were reduced in size to about two inches high by five inches long. The catalogue was in two parts, one containing subject groups, and the other an arrangement by authors. It was rather difficult at times to know under what general head a special subject could be found as there was no index to the divisions under the general groups. Mr. Winsor recognized the value of the classed catalogue, and recommended a careful revision of it and a printed explanation to assist the user. The revision was started by Assistant Librarian Samuel H. Scudder, who devised a system of numbers that would simplify references from one head-

ing to another. Mr. Lane continued this revision, spending a large portion of his time between 1882 and 1893 at this work. He compiled a list of about 15,000 subject headings with references by number. This list was published in 1891 and gave the user of the subject catalogue a convenient guide.

Mr. Winsor was an early advocate of the printed card. In 1888 he used the type set up for recent accessions in the Harvard Library Bulletin to print cards for the catalogue. Previous to his time all cards had been written by hand. While the printing covered only a small amount of the current additions it was a step in the right direction, a step that has now become a standard in this and other libraries.

The increase in funds for the purchase of books and the steady growth of the Library made an Order Department a necessity. Mr. William H. Tillinghast was the first official head of this department. He was a graduate of Harvard in the Class of 1877 and a classmate of President Lowell, a man of wide general knowledge, scholarly, quiet, patient, and modest. He translated Ploetz' *Epitome of Universal History* from the German, a book which was very much used for ready reference for historical dates, and is still in use with additions which bring it up to date. He was also editor of the "Quinquennial Catalogue." In 1895 he took general charge of the Shelf Department, which position he held until his death in 1913. His services in the Library covered a period of thirty-one years.

Mr. Alfred C. Potter came to the Library in 1889, the year of his graduation from Harvard. He worked in the Order Department under Mr. Tillinghast's direction and was given charge of it in 1893. As Assistant Librarian he continued this work until he was appointed Librarian in 1928. He administered the ordering with great skill and became so familiar with the needs of the Library that the teaching staff depended largely on him

to keep the literature of their departments up to date. This was no small task to impose on one man, as it involved an equitable division of funds for the purchase of books in the various subjects.

In summing up the progress of the Library under Mr. Winsor it will be seen that he had a wonderful capacity for organization. His share in the development of the stack system for the economic housing of books, his establishment of the reserved book system, and his development of the printed card idea, place him in the front rank among librarians of this country, and show him to have been a man of extraordinary foresight in the field of library science. That he was well thought of by the library profession is evidenced by the fact that he was elected president of the American Library Association, and by his temporary election later as president in order that he might represent American librarians at an international conference abroad.

He was also eminent as a historian. His "Narrative and Critical History of America" and his "Memorial History of Boston" are monuments to his ability in that field.

EXHIBITIONS PREPARED BY THE TREASURE ROOM
1937–1938

1. Thorndike and Whitney collections of playing cards.
* 2. Six plays of Shakespeare. (Theatre Collection material.)
3. Alice in Wonderland; parodies and translations.
4. Books from the libraries of the Presidents of the United States.
5. The Utopia collection.
6. Books owned by Harvard students of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
* 7. Hand binding illustrated by examples from the Harvard University Bindery.
8. Manuscripts and marginalia of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.
9. The development of bookbinding.
10. The British Fifty Books of 1936.
11. The works of Emanuel Swedenborg.
*12. Letters to William Dean Howells.
13. Alexander Pope and his contemporaries.
14. The work of Bruce Rogers, designer of books.
15. Celtic books and manuscripts.
*16. Eighteenth and nineteenth century Army Registers, including a number recently received from the Adjutant-General's office.
17. Theatrical productions of the Hasty Pudding Club.
18. Original Audubon drawings and selections from the elephant folio of Birds of America.
19. The American Fifty Books of 1937.
*20. Harvard Poets Theatre production of Alcestis.
21. American colonial newspapers.
22. Eleanor Melville Metcalf collection of books and manuscripts of Herman Melville.
23. Sheet music with illustrated covers.
*24. Selections from the Harvard Phi Beta Kappa Library.
25. First editions of the works of John Milton. (Aid from J. M. French.)
26. English novels of the eighteenth century.

* Exhibitions for which the Treasure Room was not wholly responsible.

HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

C. E. WALTON EDITORS GERTRUDE M. SULLIVAN

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

1638–1938

WHILE it is true that a Library in Harvard College was in existence as early as September 7, 1638, it is not possible to say that the academic term just concluded marks the third century of that foundation. The fire in 1764 not only left the early Library in ashes, but gave significant point to the end of an era. From some points of view the history of the Harvard Library may be considered the history of two libraries, established under different auspices and serving dissimilar ends. As if to underscore the impact of scholarship upon society and government in the Bay Colony, the burning of Harvard Hall, on that night of January 24th, provided the coming sovereign state with a new Library hardly fifteen years old.

The relationships between these two libraries and the academic community from which flowed their life are not without many elements of uncertainty. In 1892, before Librarian Winsor's day was over, they had seen an equal number of birthdays. The age of each was one hundred and twenty-six years. Perhaps the forty-six years added since imply some increment of advantage for the later Library we know so much better. Librarian Benjamin Peirce summed up the effects of the fire, some sixty-six years afterward, with singular candor: "An old building, old books, and old instruments were exchanged for new, more elegant, and in many respects more valuable ones; and an impulse was given towards the augmentation of the Library which is felt to the

present moment, and has raised it to a point which almost secures to it a due measure of attention in future." Had the Librarian not gone on to point out that the new Library possessed still older books (and the date was pushed back six years, even as he wrote, by receipt of a fine copy of Jenson's Laërtius printed in Venice in 1475), his statement might have stood as more truth than prophecy.

The early Library is mentioned by contemporaries so definitely that books must have been in use in the Peyntree house during 1638–1639; and from 1640 to 1642 when the Library was reëstablished in "Old College." If, as Professor Morison points out, Thomas Danforth's note in College Book III,

> "ffor the furnishing of the Colledge with a Library that might be of publick use to the Students therein, the Hon^{d} Magistrates and Rev^{d} Elders gave towards the same out of their own libraryes to the vallue of two hundred pound,"

must be viewed as including the Harvard legacy, then either the more than 400 volumes of John Harvard's gift were appraised at a very low figure, or else the "Hon^{d} Magistrates" and all other "Rev^{d} Elders" were the reverse of generous in their giving.

When Eaton, Head of the College in 1638, came face to face with his responsibility for "youth lectured," a plea to the eight University men of the first Board of Overseers may well have produced a working collection of familiar texts, grammars, and commentaries, such as would have proved indispensable. Numbering perhaps only a few dozen books, such a library could have accounted for only a modest part of the two hundred pounds. Since the books secured in England by the Peter-Weld-Hibbons mission, to the value of one hundred and fifty pounds, could not have been received until after 1642, the Library in the Peyntree house probably included a collection of necessary books and nothing else.

Although the Harvard legacy cannot have occupied much more than sixty feet of shelf space, and should have been provided for easily in one room, it seems unlikely that it could have been received and placed before Eaton got into difficulties. Since the next year the College was closed, and since President Dunster had more important immediate problems to face, it is quite possible that no attempt was made to accommodate the Harvard books until they were moved into "Old College." Furthermore, quarters for them in the Peyntree house on a temporary basis would have incurred an expense which both Eaton and Dunster might have sought to avoid.

The early Library was twice moved. After four years in the Peyntree house, it was installed in "Old College" in 1642, where it grew slowly for thirty-four years. Of the provisions for it we know nothing, except that it was located at the east end of the second floor next the "Great" or "Long" chamber. With so high a representation of University men on the governing board, it is probable that a simple form of the English college libraries, with which they were familiar in the first quarter of the seventeenth century, was followed closely. At least 450 volumes must have been ready to be included in 1642, increased to some 750 as the Peter-Weld-Hibbons mission bore fruit. Professor Morison estimates about 900 volumes by 1655. The record of gifts, although small, is fairly steady; furthermore, by 1667 it was considered necessary to appoint a Librarian, frame some laws, and prepare a catalogue. Daniel Gookin, the third Librarian, was voted a total of £2.14.6 in July and August, 1676, "in satisfaction for his paines in removing the library to the new Colledge and placeing them." Assuming a steady growth between 1642 and 1676, there must have been, at the latter date, not far from 2,000 volumes to be provided for in "Old College."

In Old Harvard Hall the Library remained for eighty-eight years until the fire. It occupied the middle chamber of the second floor; and by 1723 there were about 3,500 volumes. Additions of 600 books are indicated down to 1735; so that by 1764 it must have contained over 5,000 volumes. The original library in something over a century had grown to a literary foundation of size and importance. With no Librarian until 1667, nor thereafter until 1674, following that date there is record of a steady stream of junior fellows, tutors, resident Bachelors, butlers, and Masters of Arts as Library Keepers. Apparently no salary was paid until 1693. By 1736 a revision of the Library laws was thought necessary. The laws of 1667 specify a tenure of two years for the Library Keeper; this was reduced to one by the laws adopted May 20, 1736. Not unlike the libraries of many of the English colleges, the old Harvard Library grew quietly, flourished moderately, and was, on the whole, more of a museum than a laboratory.

Four hundred and four books from this collection were out at the time of the fire, and thus were saved; and these were gathered in by Librarian Andrew Eliot, Jr., as a nucleus with which to start the new one. The building erected by the General Court on the same site was indeed "new" and "elegant"; but it was filled with unaccustomed activity. Ezra Stiles in his *Itineraries* says: "I was in the Library Commencement 1766; it contains sundry Donations in separate Alcoves. Estimates: Mr. Hollis, 1,200 volumes; Mr. Hancock, 1,300 volumes (£500 sterling); Society Xtian, etc. 500 volumes; New Hamp. 700 volumes (£300 sterling); Society Episco. 250 volumes; Private, 400 volumes; Total, 4,350 volumes." In one year had been equalled the beneficence of a century. By 1790 the Library contained over 12,000 books.

The new Library was likewise twice moved. During

the seventy-six years in Harvard Hall, it gradually came to occupy the entire second floor; and contained, by 1830, twenty alcoves. In 1841, the books were moved to a new library building, Gore Hall, from which, after seventy-four years, they were again moved into the present Widener building. During the three quarters of a century in Harvard Hall, the principal library problem was the catalogue. Where each substantial gift was kept intact and the whole Library arranged by donors, it is evident that such rapid growth undoubtedly raised serious problems in locating volumes. The American cataloguing styles of the eighteenth century were drawn from those of the English seventeenth century, when the term catalogue covered a much wider field. Before 1650, two favorite types of catalogues were those arranged by size (probably partly due to the fashion of chaining books to their shelves), and by donors. After mid-century, catalogues by subject seized the professional fancy, with an occasional venture into alphabetical author cataloguing, although the latter were regarded as an ideal to be viewed with caution if not alarm. At least one and possibly two of the 17th century catalogues of the Library had been arranged by donors; and the first catalogue to be printed, in 1723, was by size.

The new Library started out boldly with a manuscript alphabetical catalogue by authors, undoubtedly the conception of the Librarian, Andrew Eliot. Two slightly different types of such catalogues were prepared before the Revolutionary War sent the books into hiding, the second of which ingenuously contrived to include the donors' names. A third manuscript author catalogue was begun about 1774 and the first page is here reproduced. Unfortunately it was never carried beyond the letter B; but it is as precise and elaborate a catalogue as could probably be found in 18th century North America. In 1779, a fourth alphabetical cata-

logue was prepared, of which but one leaf is preserved. In 1781, the first catalogue of the pamphlets was re-copied into the unfinished catalogue of about 1774; and the two served until the new catalogue "under various heads." Such a subject catalogue had been clearly specified by the Committee which drew up regulations for the Library in 1765. Finally prepared in 1789, and combined with the second tract catalogue of 1781, it was re-copied and became the printed catalogue of 1790. Inter-leaved copies of this work took care of additions to the Library until about 1812.

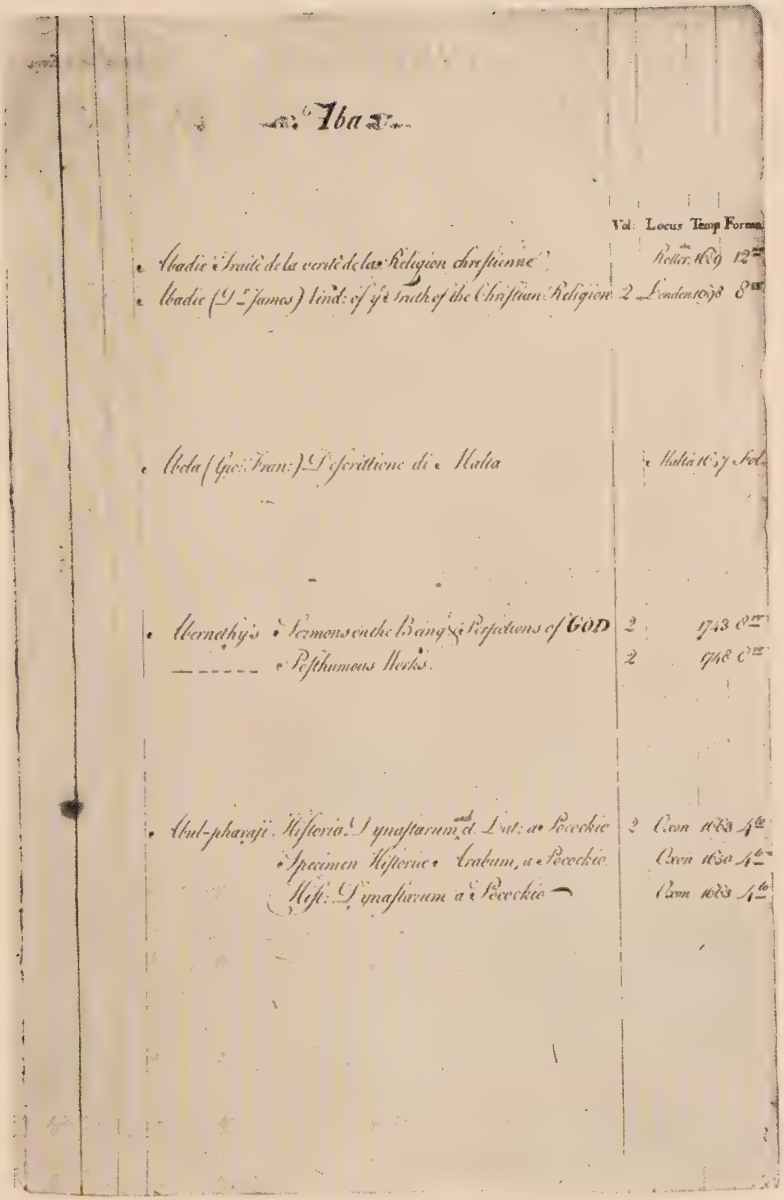
By March of that year, it is clear that the catalogue situation was unsatisfactory. Ten years of discussion and experiment followed, during which at least four different plans were authorized and then abandoned. The necessary conclusion that a growing library with an increasing body of users could not be efficiently catalogued when arranged by donors was made by Librarian Joseph Green Cogswell, who boldly re-organized the whole Library in 1822, re-arranging the books under four general heads: Theology, Philosophy (Science), Literature, and History. Meantime the Library had increased to upwards of 20,000 books.

With the books arranged by subjects, it was possible for Librarian Benjamin Peirce to please all sides with an alphabetical author list provided with a condensed subject index. This work appeared as the printed catalogue of 1830; and a supplement brought out in 1834 carried the list down to September, 1833. A second supplement was planned and some work was done on it in 1835 and 1836, but it was never printed. By 1840, in the manuscript draft of his report to the President, Librarian Thaddeus William Harris is ready to say: "a slip catalogue should be made." By "slip catalogue" was meant an early form of the card catalogue as we know it today. This flexible type of record had been widely introduced in Germany and Scan-

dinavia, in a variety of forms, at the end of the eighteenth century. Thus it took just half as long for the newest improvement in cataloguing to cross the Atlantic in the nineteenth century as it had in the eighteenth. With this accomplishment, surely of no small importance to library service, the Library's days in Harvard Hall came to an end. It had grown to more than 40,000 volumes under that hospitable roof, and filled the entire second floor. Gore Hall, the first Harvard building exclusively for library purposes, had been built from the legacy of Christopher Gore. With double the alcove space of the whole floor of Harvard Hall, the new library building was expected to provide handsomely for a century's growth.

With the publication of the printed catalogue of 1830, the problem of the catalogue had been substantially solved, at least for a time. The Library's serious problems then became those of administration. Librarian Harris was first to address an annual report to the President of the University, and the first page of the manuscript draft of his first report of 1831–32 is reproduced. This practice, begun under obscure auspices, continued intermittently for some years; but gave way to a formal report from the Librarian to the Overseers' Visiting Committee. It was revived as an annual function by Winsor in 1878 and has continued regularly since.

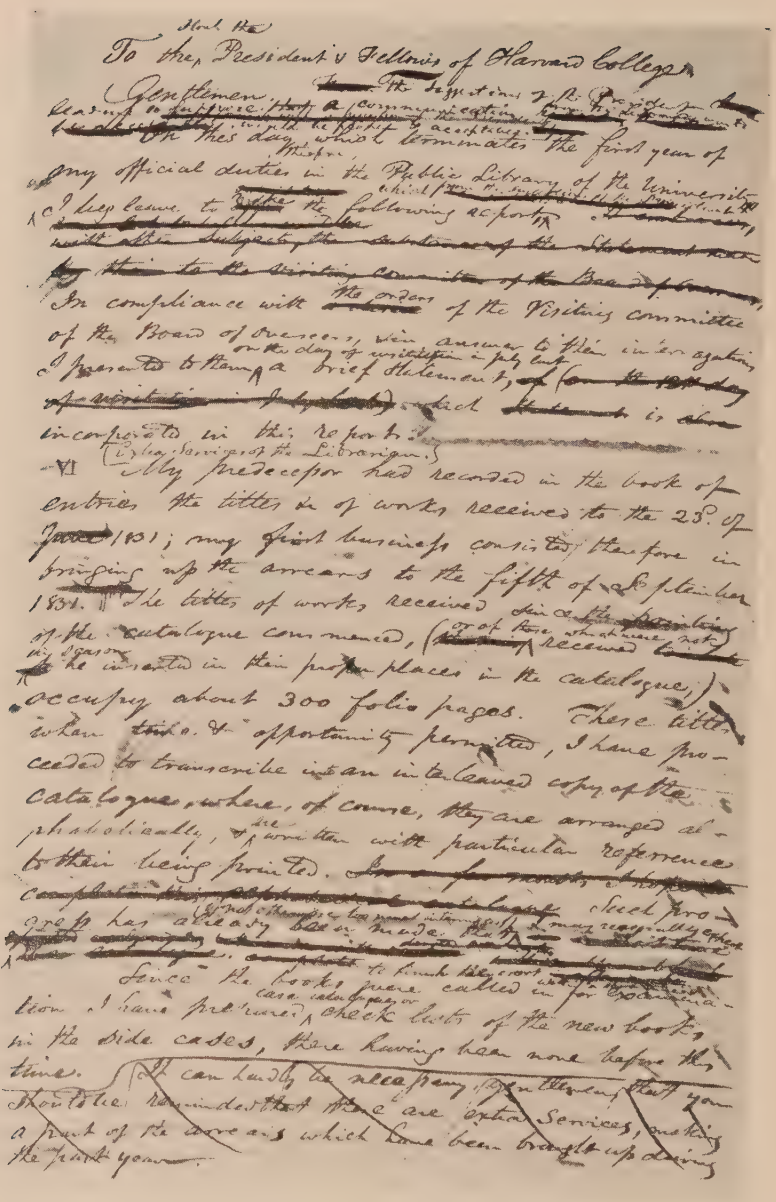
Some 40,000 books were moved into Gore Hall; and when Sibley became Librarian in 1856 this figure had increased to over 50,000. In 1774, the third Thomas Hollis had established by bequest the first permanent book fund; in 1801, Librarian Samuel Shapleigh had in the same way contributed another somewhat larger. Until 1844, these two funds, yielding about $300 annually, were the only means available for buying books. Then in 1844, while Harris was Librarian, the Haven fund (about the size of the Shapleigh fund) was added



Aba

	Vol:	Locus	Temp	Forma
Abadie Traité de la verité de la Religion chrestienne		Rotter.	1709	12mo
Abadie (Dr James) Vind: of y^e truth of the Christian Religion	2	London	1698	8vo
Abela (Geo: Fran:) Descrittione di Malta		Malta	1647	Fol.
Abernethy's Sermons on the Being & Perfections of GOD	2		1743	8vo
——— Posthumous Works	2		1748	8vo
Abul-pharaji Historia Dynastarum and Dat: a Pococke	2	Oxon	1663	4to
Specimen Historiæ Arabum, a Pococke		Oxon	1650	4to
Hist: Dynastarum a Pococke		Oxon	1663	4to

FIRST PAGE OF THE UNFINISHED MANUSCRIPT CATALOGUE ASCRIBED TO JAMES WINTHROP, ABOUT 1774–1775



DRAFT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HARVARD LIBRARIAN, 1832

without appreciably bettering the situation. From 1858 to 1877, in John Langdon Sibley's term of office as Librarian, $166,000 of invested capital was added, with considerable though not the necessary improvement. From 1878 to 1892, under Justin Winsor, about $175,000 was secured in addition. Thus by 1892 the Library possessed nearly $350,000, the income from which was available for books. Until near the end of the century, therefore, no regular practice of buying books could be followed. When books were to be bought, the Treasurer of the University placed the order and received the books and the bill. It was with some little difficulty that Sibley came to possess any responsibility or discretion for this necessary library function. By 1867 the President was willing to turn over responsibility to the Librarian acting with the advice of a Library Council composed of members of the faculty, among whom Professor Child proved an energetic library friend. Lack of money for books was the more serious since the 248 Harvard College students in 1830 had increased to 1,456 sixty-two years later.

In the 1880's, in Winsor's time, the Librarian had become more independently situated. The ordering of books had ceased to be a matter in which either the President or the Library Council took other than a general interest. Winsor was able to begin that specialized functioning which led to separate departments of Library administration. In 1892, the College Library contained over 275,000 books. On that birthday when the Old Library and the New stood of equal age in history's sight, if the ghost of Peyntree house was seen by the ghost of man, that ghost was surely Emmanuel's founder, Sir Walter Mildmay, whose famous words to Queen Elizabeth had again proved true: "I have set an Acorn, which when it becomes an Oak, God alone knows what will be the fruit thereof."

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL LIBRARY — ITS FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

By Reginald Fitz

IN ONE respect, at least, the Medical School Library is unique among all the libraries in Harvard University. It was born a premature baby and yet still is living.

At the time of the Great Fire, eighteen years before the Medical School ever began, there was already started a collection of "the most approved Medical Authors" at Harvard, ambitiously hoping some day to be "very serviceable to a professor of Physic and Anatomy when the revenues of the College should have been sufficient to subsist a gentleman in this character." Hence in old Harvard Hall there were not only "two compleat skeletons of different sexes" and a "fine apparatus for experimental philosophy in its several branches," but also a group of medical books. No doubt these books, the skeletons, and the fine apparatus lived amicably together, and one of the things they all longed for was the day when they should be used by future professors in physic and anatomy to advance medical learning and perpetuate it to posterity.

Whenever I think of the fire and the snow-storm, and of plump President Holyoke ploughing through the snowdrifts trying to put the fire out, wearing "nothing more upon him than he sits in the house," I feel especially sorry for the two complete skeletons of different sexes that had bashfully inspected each other's anatomy for goodness knows how many years and were doomed to burn up before their peculiarities could be studied by Harvard medical students.

Anyway, because of these beginnings, the Medical School Library, it seems to me, has every right to consider itself as having first come into existence before 1764, and thus is one of the most venerable of the special

libraries of the University and among the oldest of medical libraries in the United States.

On October 7, 1783, the Medical School started. Benjamin Waterhouse and John Warren were duly inducted into office, Waterhouse as professor of physic and Warren as professor of anatomy. There was general rejoicing and fireworks in the Yard that night. I expect the undergraduates had fully as much fun as they did on the evening of September 17, 1936, at the Tercentenary Celebration, and that the Yard in 1783 looked just as lovely illuminated with torches and colored lights as it did a hundred and fifty-three years later.

Of course the new professors needed books, and thus the Corporation presently made plans "that the Library of the University be enriched with a collection of the most approved authors in anatomy, surgery, physic, chemistry, etc. — a collection more perfect than any in America, as soon as circumstances will permit."

The subsequent story of the Medical School Library has been one of many changes. Perhaps the best way to trace its career is by studying its bookplates.

First there was the Hurd bookplate — still a handsome one — and some of our older books continue to wear it, going back to the days when medical books were being assembled in the College Library against the time when there should be a more proper dwelling place for them.

Next was the Boylston Medical Library bookplate. In 1800 Mr. Ward Nicholas Boylston laid the foundation for this Library by giving about 1,100 volumes of a medical nature to the University; and in 1803 the Corporation voted "that all books which have been or may be presented to Harvard College for the use of the Medical Institution by Ward Nicholas Boylston, Esq., or which may hereafter be purchased by any of the proceeds of his fund be kept in a separate apartment and be forever denominated the Boylston Library."

Mr. Boylston was an interesting character. He was a pleasant-looking soul, as judged by the Stuart portrait of him which now graces our main reading room. He was born a Hallowell; but his mother was a Boylston, his uncle was Nicholas Boylston — that delightful-looking gentleman by Copley who, clad in his Turkish costume, appears so perfectly at home in the dining room of Winthrop House — and his great uncle was Dr. Zabdiel Boylston who with Mr. Cotton Mather fought the smallpox inoculation battle of 1721.

Mr. Hallowell was born in 1749, and in 1770, for reasons of personal economy, changed his name to Boylston. For by so doing he anticipated inheriting the not inconsiderable fortune of his Uncle Nicholas. He went into business in London at about the time of the War, and finally came back to Boston in 1800, living there until he died in 1827. Five years before his death, it is said, he refused an A.M. degree.

He was proud of his great uncle Zabdiel and out of respect for him founded the Boylston Medical Library. We still mark with the Boylston bookplate all books which are purchased each year with the proceeds of his fund, and now that Mr. Boylston resides in the Library where he himself can personally watch over his books I feel sure that he forgives us for not keeping them in a separate apartment.

That we, too, have the highest regard for his great uncle Zabdiel is certain. We are fond of Dr. Boylston not only because he introduced Clinical Research to Boston and on that account ranks as one of our most progressive doctors, but also because of a peculiar association we have with him.

In 1723 Dr. Boylston was invited by Royal command to go to London. He was elected a member of the Royal Society — the first American ever accorded that honor; he was introduced to the Royal family; and, indeed, may have inoculated the Princess Caroline.

Certainly Mr. Boylston always maintained that the doctor had performed this operation on the lady, and for doing it successfully had received from His Majesty a purse of one thousand guineas. No doubt, if this was true, Dr. Boylston henceforward appreciated royalty and the regal way of doing things. Inoculation, after all, was very minor surgery: a thousand guineas made a pleasant grateful-patient token for any doctor to receive.

The Royal Society asked Dr. Boylston, before he left England, to write an account of his practice of inoculation in America. This he did in 1726, dedicating it with an appropriate flourish to the Princess; and, we are told, "a copy of this edition, elegantly bound, has been deposited in the medical library of Harvard University by Ward Nicholas Boylston, Esq." Our copy is one of our show-pieces. It gives us an intimate, personal bond with Royalty and adds a fillip to our general air of distinction.

In 1810 the Medical School left Cambridge and moved into Boston. At first the School occupied rooms at 49 Marlboro Street — which, by the way, now is Washington Street. But the stay here was of short duration and in 1816 the School moved to larger quarters on Mason Street. The cost of the structure there erected was helped by the Legislature and hence the building, as a complimentary gesture to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was labeled the Massachusetts Medical College. It was somewhat unorthodox in design but at least it contained space for a library. Thus, it appears, shortly after 1816 a Medical School Library independent of the collection of medical books in the College Library was begun.

There is an interesting letter addressed to President Kirkland, dated the 25th of November 1819 and signed by James Jackson, John C. Warren, John Gorham, Walter Channing, Jr., and Jacob Bigelow. These men comprised the Faculty.

Fourteen years previously James Jackson and John C. Warren, along with certain other gentlemen, formed a medical society for mutual improvement, and a few months later started a Boston Medical Library. This was housed at 39 Marlboro Street, only a few doors away from the old Medical School. When the new Medical School was built the advantages for amalgamation between the Boston Medical Library and the new Medical School Library became apparent, hence the letter addressed to President Kirkland. Parts of it are quoted.

"Sir:

"The Subscribers have collected a Library which is now placed in the Massachusetts Medical College to which they have given the name of the 'Library of the Massachusetts Medical College.' The Library has been collected from their own resources with the exception of some valuable works presented to it by Benjn. Vaughan, Esq. [Dr. Vaughan was Mr. Boylston's first cousin. He was a man of great learning, Cambridge and Edinburgh trained, and he had an extensive library.] A catalogue of this Library will shortly be prepared and shall be sent to you.

"It is the wish and design of the Subscribers that this Library should remain permanently for the benefit of the medical pupils of the University, and for this purpose that it should be under the management of the medical faculty of the University, subject however to the inspection and control of the Reverend and Honorable the President and Fellows of the University, so as that the design of the Subscribers should be carried into effect.

"It is also the intention of the Subscribers to continue to make donations to the Library, and it is their hope that their successors will feel the same solicitation for its increase as they themselves do feel.

"With a view to increasing the number of Books to

which the pupils of the University may have access, the Subscribers have entered into an agreement with the proprietors of the Boston Medical Library in consequence of which the two Libraries are united and will continue to be so as long as it may be agreeable to both parties. By this agreement the Boston Medical Library is kept in the Massachusetts Medical College, and is under the care of the same Librarian who is appointed by the Subscribers to take charge of the Library of that College, and the books of each Library are common for the use of those who have legal access to the other."

We have a good many books marked with the stamp of the Massachusetts Medical College. Some of these certainly go back to the days when the Boston Medical Library and the Library of the Medical School were united. For example, I can recall one book that is now in the Medical School Library in the Warren collection. Beneath the Warren Library bookplate is the first Dr. J. C. Warren's personal bookplate, and under this is an old Boylston Medical Library bookplate. I dare say the book was bought originally by Dr. Warren while he was abroad, was given by him to the Boylston Medical Library and became a member of the Medical School Library when the union between the Boston Medical Library and the Massachusetts Medical College occurred, was taken back by him when this union was broken up, was added to his own personal collection, and finally was returned to the Medical School Library when the Warren books at last came there to rest. As Dr. Osler remarked, indeed it is strange what waifs books are; the most respectable volume may wander from its near relatives.

Something unpleasant happened in 1826. In that year the Boston Medical Library broke away from the Medical School Library and joined the Athenaeum. The circumstances leading up to this divorce are

shrouded in mystery. I have no doubt, however, that it was partly our fault. For the Faculty records of 1816 show that when the Medical School first entered the library business, we expected to form our collection in a rather amateurish manner: entirely "by donations from the medical faculty to consist principally of elementary works." Perchance to our partners this did not seem the proper way to lay the foundation for a medical library which aimed some day to be the most perfect of any in America. Or perhaps unfriendliness began to develop as early as 1820 when our Faculty issued warning "that the Dean inform the Trustees of the Boston Medical Library that after the year 1821 the Faculty will not be able to increase their Library annually to the amount they have heretofore done."

Regardless of why the divorce occurred, I fear that the Medical Library for a few years went through a period of innocuous desuetude. But presently things began to look up.

In 1828 the Faculty voted "that the Library room be furnished with carpet and chairs, etc., and that the stove be removed and a grate placed in the fireplace." This must have made the Library much more liveable. And certainly none of Professor Morison's hard-drinking, irresponsible young hellions of a hundred years ago, dressed up in their light-colored pantaloons strapped under the instep, with their light-colored frocks, and their broad-brimmed straw hats, were to have easy access to our books. For in 1829 the Faculty firmly voted "that no books shall be delivered from the Library of the Massachusetts Medical College but once a week, viz., on Saturdays, on which days the Sub-Librarian shall attend the Library at three o'clock and remain until ¼ past 3, and no books shall be delivered to any person coming after that hour." This policy reminds me of the story Professor Robert Blake once told of the Librarian of the College Library of those

days who met the President in the Yard. "How is the Library getting along?" said the President. "Splendidly," replied the Librarian, "there is only one book out and I know which professor has it!"

The Medical School managed to grow and in 1846 moved to North Grove Street near the Massachusetts General Hospital. "A new and elegant Medical College of ample dimensions" was now in process of erection. It was to be 134 ft. long — surely large enough for years to come — and was designed to contain a spacious lecture room and also a library.

The library, unfortunately, never flourished here. Strangely enough most of such medical books as the University now was acquiring were accumulating in Cambridge. One must remember, however, that the Medical School for a good many years after it moved to Boston was almost a proprietary affair, not too seriously regarded by our Alma Mater in Cambridge; and no doubt the few books which were added to the School library during the North Grove Street days were mainly defunct textbooks and old journals which the professors did not care for.

Other factors played a part in embarrassing the growth of the Library in those days. In the first place, the way in which medicine was taught did not require library facilities. Our professors tended to be bombastic folk and they liked to lecture oratorically or to give dramatic demonstrations to their classes. Our students were docile creatures, sitting under their professors like lambs, and were discouraged in independent thought or reading. Our professors, too, were practitioners and not yet interested in full-time research work in the laboratory. Thus the use for a library was limited, and the easiest way to obtain books was to buy them one's self and read them at home. Many Boston doctors had their own libraries; and there were circulating co-operative library clubs where modern medical books and jour-

nals were passed from one doctor to the next doctor at weekly intervals, the journals and books so purchased being auctioned off at the end of the year.

So it was that at the end of its first hundred years, although there were nearly four thousand medical books in Gore Hall, the Medical School Library had only about eighteen hundred. Another half-century was to pass before the plans made by the Corporation in those early days should be on their way to fulfillment.

EARLY DAYS OF THE BUSINESS SCHOOL LIBRARY

By Arthur H. Cole

THE EVOLUTION of the Library attached to the Graduate School of Business Administration is surely worth recording. This is true in part because the institution has so rapidly taken a significant place in the congeries of Harvard libraries, and in part because the history of its evolution is *per se* interesting. The former element need not be stressed in writing for those familiar with present-day Harvard conditions. Let it suffice to note that while the Harvard College, the Harvard Law, and the Harvard Medical libraries reached their present high positions only as a result of long-time growth, the Business School Library did not exist thirty years ago, and counted for little even ten years later. On the other hand, its mode of evolution reminds one of the colonization fathered by the Greek city states. The parent city became congested; there were problems due to over-population; finally means were found whereby emigration of the discontented element became possible; and the parent city could then resume a peaceful and more orderly life.

The career of the Business School Library can be understood adequately only against the background of the growth of the School itself. Opening its doors in the fall of 1908, the latter made but moderate headway until the post-war period. At the pre-war peak of 1916–17, there were only 225 registered students. The first normal year after the war (1919–20) presented a registration of 410 students, and this number rose steadily until in 1926–27, the year just prior to the opening of the new Business School buildings, the student body had reached the total of almost 800 men. The rapid expansion in these latter years was bound to make difficulties in the parent organism, not less so with respect to library facilities than to class rooms and accounting laboratories. Moreover, the incidence of the Business School Library needs upon the library structure in the Harvard Yard was rendered more unhappy for all concerned by the fact that in the pre-war days they intensified an already difficult situation of the overcrowded Gore Hall, or the temporary quarters in Randall, while in the post-war years this rapidly growing unit trenched upon the facilities only recently allotted to other departments and other uses in the Widener building. Not the least of the problems of adjustment in both pre-war and post-war days was the intimate connection between business and economics. With much overlapping of these two fields, the task of setting up a library for the Business School which would not interfere with the work of the Economics Department in the College was by no means a simple one. The fact that the activities of the Business School Library were adding to the aggregate facilities available at Harvard for the study of economic problems did not prevent temporary conflicts.

The general course in the evolution of the Business School Library was one from dependence upon the facilities and good offices of the Harvard College Li-

brary to one of substantial independence. At the outset of the School, space was generously provided by the latter in the west stack of the hopelessly congested Gore Hall. Not only did this step entail changes in the routine administration of the Harvard College Library, but the attempt to insert a reading room into stack space meant added confusion to an already intolerable situation. In the summer of 1910 a small room was secured for the use of the Business School in Lawrence Hall, and here the School's reading room was maintained until the opening of the Widener building. Two rooms on the top floor of the latter were allotted to the Business School and made somewhat more serviceable by a direct opening to the stack space of the new library structure. These rooms remained the headquarters of the Business School Library until the opening of the Baker Library building in the fall of 1927. Here, on the top floor of Widener, in fact, reading-room activity ripened into substantially self-sufficient library service. More and more the ordering of books was taken over by the Business School personnel from the Order Department of the Harvard College Library, while in January, 1920, the cataloging of the Business School material, under a new classification scheme, was assumed by the staff of the Business School Library. When the latter institution was faced with the problem of isolated existence across the Charles, it was fairly well prepared.

The evolution in the title bestowed upon the head of the Business School Library reveals this trend from dependence to independence. Mr. A. F. Crowley served from 1910–11 until 1913–14 as "Superintendent of the Reading Room" of the Business School; so also did Mr. Walter M. Stone in 1914–15, but when the larger space became available in the new Widener building, Mr. Stone was designated "Superintendent of the Special Library" of the School. Mr. Cecil Ross suc-

ceeded Mr. Stone in the fall of 1919 and signed himself as Superintendent of "the Library" of the Business School, although this institution still ranked really as a "special" library under the direct supervision of the Harvard College Library. Finally, in the fall of 1921, my predecessor in office, Mr. Charles C. Eaton, came to the School. He was appointed "Librarian" of the Graduate School of Business Administration, and thereafter apparently the Business School Library was rated a departmental rather than a special library.

The development of an adequate library in the field of business had been a primary interest of Professor Gay, the first Dean of the School, and has remained no less important in the thoughts of Mr. Donham, the second and present Dean. Appropriations of $1,000 or $1,500 for the purchase of books were spared from the meager funds available in the early budgets, while in the latter years expenditures for the same purpose have been equally generous. The number of volumes on August 1, 1920, was reported to be in excess of 18,000; by June 30, 1927 (just before the migration to Soldiers Field), it had become 66,000; in the last ten years the numbers have continued to increase until at present over 165,000 titles are recorded, together with something like 750,000 pieces in the Corporation Records collection, and several tons of business manuscripts. Rarely, if ever, in the history of Harvard libraries has such rapid expansion been observed. In this growth the Harvard College Library made a significant contribution through the transference from its shelves of trade journals, such as the *Iron Age* and the *Bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers*, and of corporation annual reports and the like, both of which it had accumulated over a period of years. A further, quantitatively more important contribution derived from the energy and zeal of my predecessor, Mr. Eaton. A born collector and a natural enthusiast, he assembled

material actively, in a number of ways laying the foundations on which the Library has since built.

While the first effort of the Business School Library has always been to provide recent and current literature essential for the use of the School's faculty and student body, early it began to manifest individuality. In Dean Gay's Report to the President for 1908–09, he made mention of the "nucleus of a Business Archive" then already formed, which would contain business documents, some confidential in character. This project evolved slowly, undoubtedly hampered by the lack of available library space, but before the world war came upon us, the School had secured its first large, and still one of its best, collections in the field of business manuscripts, namely, the records of S. Slater and Sons Company, a textile concern that reached back to the very beginning of modern cotton manufacture in this country, and to Samuel Slater, "the Father of the Cotton Industry in America." Since the advent of peace, and particularly with the acquisition of larger storage space in the new Business School buildings, the collection of business documents has grown markedly until it constitutes the largest assembly of its kind in the country, if not in the world. To this achievement Mr. Howard Corning, sometime head of the Manuscript Division in Baker Library, and the Business Historical Society have given much aid.

In Dean Gay's report just cited, mention is also made of the "reports of companies" which "the School has begun to receive." Here again a new development was foreshadowed. In the pre-war years, accumulation continued slowly, and the preëxisting stock of similar items in the Harvard College Library was transferred (as already indicated) to the custody of the Business School. At a later date, Professors Dewing and Cunningham became actively interested in the further development of this Corporation Records collection.

A branch of the Business School Library was established in the basement of the Semitic Museum, and there a small staff began a purposeful search for additional material bearing upon the financial experiences of American and foreign corporations. With some further accessions from the shelves of the Boston Public Library, this special collection, now (as above intimated) estimated to exceed 750,000 pieces, has become the center of corporation printed material, not only for Harvard but for the whole Cambridge-Boston area.

Interest in historical aspects of business led the Business School Library naturally into concern for early books and pamphlets dealing with business and economics. One notable step in this new direction came with the gift to the Business School of the library collected in his lifetime by the late Senator Nelson W. Aldrich of Rhode Island, and the establishment in the Baker Library building of the Aldrich Library of Finance. Continuing purchases of older items have added to the historical depth of the Business School collection, but real excellence in this area awaited the gift by Mr. Claude Washington Kress of the notable Foxwell collection of economic and business literature, and the creation in the Baker Library building of the Kress Library of Business and Economics.

The rapid development of the Business School Library, as already suggested, has not been wholly frictionless. Difficulties appeared from time to time, both with members of the Economics Department and with officials of the Harvard College Library. For example, a letter from a professor, dated May 3, 1916 — and signed with a rubber stamp! — has been preserved, in which he belabors Dean Gay for the acquisitive propensities of the Business School Library: "Ought we not to regulate in some way the manner in which the Business School seizes upon every thing which by any chance it wishes to use, and locks it up in its archives

and then imperiously requires a permission duly signed for undergraduates to enter the sacred precincts wherein it is confined? Such trifles, for example, as the entire file of the *Iron Age*, and I should expect the Old and New Testaments, if you wanted to use them, either are or are likely to be treated in this way. Nothing is too sacred to be torn from our grasp" — and he goes on to imply that the Business School should have stenciled on its books "Stolen" from the Economics Department. Likewise, Professor Coolidge became agitated at about the same period and wrote to his friend Dean Gay that he had found a letter of Mr. Stone (Superintendent of the School's Reading Room) "rather irritating" because it was "so full of the spirit of mine and thine." He added that selfishly he was "disposed to keep out of it [the squabbling] as much as possible and let the subordinates do most of the worrying; and I hope you will remain as immune as you can."

In part the difficulties, or frictions, seem attributable, at least indirectly, to the conditions under which for a decade or more the Business School Library had to function. When — as in the pre-Widener days — the reading room of the Business School was physically separated from the economics collection in the main library, or when — as in the 1920's — work desks must needs be placed in the corridors of the Widener building, part of the Classical Department's reading room be begged for use of the Business School students, and the corporation records collection seek hospitality in the Semitic Museum building, those in charge of the Business School Library could hardly fail to suffer from disordered nerves. Partly, also, such irritations derived from the intimate relationship (already noted) between the fields of economics and business, as well as doubtless from the quite understandable ambitions of individuals charged with the development of a new library organization. But the derivation of friction was not

wholly on one side. An objective survey of the early correspondence between the Business School Library and the Harvard College Library suggests that the former sometimes was unjustly accused of particular acts, and that accusations of misbehavior were quite readily leveled at this upstart institution by professors and library officials alike. The circumstances were not conducive to judicious calm on either side.

The removal of the Business School Library collections to the new building near Soldiers Field eliminated at least one source of irritation. Equally important, perhaps, was the rational determination made soon thereafter, in consultation with members of the Economics Department, as to the proper line of demarkation between economics and business, at least in so far as the collection of material is concerned. In the end a mutually advantageous objective was reached, whereby the Business School Library should for the most part be additive to, and not competitive with, the economics collection maintained in the Harvard College Library. With such delimitation of prospective areas, and with mutual welcome at both library institutions to faculty and students from "across the river," the way was cleared for coöperative effort on the part of the Harvard College and Business School libraries, whereby the aggregate assembly of materials in the allied fields of economics and business at Harvard should become outstanding among universities in the country.

RETROSPECT

By Mabel F. Barnes

TWENTY YEARS is as far as it seems wise for me to remember, but it is interesting and rather astonishing to review the development of one small part of the Library work, to see how it has increased in that time and how the Library has dealt with the problem.

Up to 1916 the binding preparation had been done by the Delivery Desk staff, in the quiet periods when a clerk could be spared from the regular routine business. The work was supervised by Mr. Thomas J. Kiernan, then head of the Circulation and Reference Department. Mr. Kiernan always took a keen interest in the mechanics of binding and, with the intelligent coöperation of the binders, John H. H. and James McNamee, worked out strict specifications which proved to be so practical that they are still being followed in the main by our present Bindery.

At this time the books were being sent out to two Harvard Square concerns, McNamee's Bindery and Facey's "College" Bindery. The employment of two binderies was not necessary because of the volume of work, but because competition was the best way to maintain the high standards upon which Mr. Kiernan always insisted. And competition *was* keen, for a close inspection of the books was regularly made by Mr. Holzwarth, who in 1915 had been installed in Room 190 to do repairing, covering pamphlets, etc. Mr. Holzwarth was the Library authority on the best methods of binding, being a craftsman of the highest type and a conscientious and meticulous workman. His sudden death in 1918 left us at a loss to find as capable a man to fill his place. After one or two disappointing attempts to do so, Mr. Lane, the Librarian, decided to start a small bindery here in the building. Thereafter, the repair work was done there.

After Mr. Kiernan's death Mr. W. B. Briggs became Reference Librarian and, with the benefit of Mr. Kiernan's long experience, carried on the oversight of the binding with equal enthusiasm. With the increase of circulation and reference work, it was becoming a burden to combine the binding preparation with the Delivery Desk duties, and early in 1916 Mr. Briggs deemed it wise to hire another assistant whose first duty should be the circulation work, but who should gradually learn the technique of binding and the preparation of books for the Bindery.

During the War years, the enlistment of two of the young men, the departure of one of the girls to Washington for war work, and at the same time the absence of Mr. Briggs in Paris, kept the remaining few assistants fully occupied, to say the least. Circulation was surprisingly large in that period because of the presence here of the R. O. T. C. and Naval Reserve and of many men taking special courses in aviation and engineering. Binding seemed, and of necessity became, of secondary importance. The current work had to be carried on, of course, and it was by overtime work only that this could be accomplished. Everyone, however, was working under pressure in those days and there was a distinct exhilaration in "doing your bit," even if it was only doing your regular job with added zest.

In the meantime, a room had been set aside as a storage place and when peace reigned once more time was allotted each day to bring order out of chaos. The bookshelves which lined the room were numbered and every item was charged at the Delivery Desk, making them more easily available. It was a long day, however, before the arrears were cleared up. Gradually, the binding preparation required more and more time and one by one the Delivery Department duties were given over and the binding work became definitely a full-time job. By 1925, part-time help of another

assistant was required, and in another few years this assistant began to give full time. As the budget increased student help was used in addition.

In 1937, enlarged working quarters improved conditions immensely and made it easier to handle the obviously increasing volume of work. The actual preparation of the books for the Bindery is now being done by two full-time persons and one part-time assistant, with a boy who serves as page and, at times, as an extra helper in the Collating Room.

The repairing is done by Mr. Edwin Prentice, who has had more than fifty years' continuous experience in commercial binderies, in our own Library Bindery, and later in the University Bindery, from which he was transferred in 1935. He is doing invaluable work in his small corner. The task of checking off and inspecting the books and pamphlets as they come back from the Bindery is done by Mrs. Stewart. She is also responsible for putting bookplates in these and many other volumes as they pass through the Collating Room.

A few figures will show effectively the increasing amount of work passing through the Binding Room each year. In 1920–21, 4,469 items were prepared. Last year, 1937–38, the total number of items sent along to the Bindery was 19,317. This figure does not include the 3,798 volumes repaired by Mr. Prentice during the past year.

It seems amazing that the work can have increased to this extent, but probably twenty years from now someone will be looking back and comparing our small beginnings with his "bigger and better" Department.

THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY UNDER LANGDELL AND ARNOLD

By Robert B. Anderson

IN THE summer of 1892 the faculty of the Law School decided to use the large number of books which Mr. Arnold, the Librarian, had purchased in England, together with a number of duplicate sets of American reports which had been accumulating, to establish an additional book service at the end of the Austin Hall Reading Room. A new delivery desk was built and on Nov. 15, 1892, I was employed for service there.

At that time the working library was housed in Austin Reading Room and on the two lower floors of the present Austin stacks. In the Reading Room there was on the walls a nearly complete set of American and English reports, a few digests and a fair collection of reference books and statutes. On the first floor of the Austin stacks, at the west end, was our most nearly complete set of American and English reports; and such Irish, Scotch and British Colonial reports as the Library possessed were also here. At the east end was a third set of the commoner American reports, a full set of the English "Law Reports" and a few others of an earlier period. The present third and fourth floors of Austin at that time did not exist, and there was a storeroom with temporary wooden shelves where Upper Austin is now located. Here were such foreign books as the Library owned, a few session laws and legal-miscellany of all sorts. To most of us this was "terra incognita." The number of books in the Library, used and unused, was about 35,000.

A few members of the faculty had offices off the main stairway, but they were little used. With the exception of Dean Langdell and Professor Gray, all had small desks in a long row on the lower floor of the stacks next to the windows. Conversation was quite possible, even

between Ed. Warren who sat at the west end, under the stairs, and Judge Smith at the end of the line. When I first came to the Library, here sat Professors Williston, Wambaugh, Beale, Ames, Thayer and Smith. Professor Gray had a desk inside the rail of the east end delivery desk and Dean Langdell was ensconced in solitary grandeur in a large room with a fireplace. I remember well that fireplace. On cold nights in winter, about 9.30, a message would arrive from the Dean's house that a fire was to be built in order that the room might be warm in the morning. John McCarthy and I were always reluctant to leave the building with this fire burning.

At least as far as the Harvard Law School was concerned, these were the days before stenographers, typewriters or even fountain pens. Professor Langdell had a reader, as his eyesight was nearly gone, but did all his own writing with pen and ink. His table was always piled high with foolscap on which he managed to get about two words on a line (I wonder what became of all this manuscript). He had a large safety ink-well at which he used to make desperate jabs with a pen, not always successfully. I recall one amusing if somewhat distressing incident. The boy who renewed the ink was instructed to put very little ink in Professor Langdell's ink-well. One day a new boy had the job, and at about 10 o'clock the Dean came out to me with his right arm dripping with ink up to the elbow.

In term time the Library was open from 8.30 A.M. to 10.30 P.M.; on Saturdays until 1 P.M. The staff consisted of the Librarian (John Himes Arnold) and his brother who acted as his secretary, a desk attendant who worked from 8.30 in the morning until 1 P.M. and from 6 until 10 P.M., a second desk attendant working from 1 until 10 P.M., and a third attendant working from 8.30 until 6. Books were served by two pages whose hours were from 8.30 until 6, and 1 until 10, respectively. My original hours were from 8.30 until 6; at a

later day from 1 until 10. Mr. Arnold's brother died — in January 1894, I think — and the Librarian asked me to come in earlier; so after that for the next five years or so I worked as Mr. Arnold's assistant from 9 until 12 in the morning and from 1 until 10 in the afternoon and evening as desk attendant. We were supposed to get through at 10 P.M. As a matter of fact, with gas lights to turn out, books to put up and fireplaces to look after, it was generally nearer 11. I imagine that the meteorologists at the Observatory would say this is an error, but it certainly seems that we had more snow in those days. Many a time when John and I got through all car service on the avenue north of Harvard Square was blocked.

For a number of years after I came the building was lighted with gas. Owing to heavy books thrown onto the tables the destruction of gas-mantles was large, which must have added considerably to the overhead. At about 4 o'clock a boy started out on his journeys with a wax taper. It took about an hour to make the circuit — if the boy did not dare to make it last longer. It was an easier job than chasing books. John and I turned out the lights at night, one by one, after we had made sure that the fire in the large fireplace was deadened with ashes. That fireplace was the delight of the students but a vexation of spirit to the janitor. The huge logs had to be toted from the basement, and the large fireplace consumed lots of them. In the little fireplace in the Dean's room cannel-coal was burned.

Book purchases in the old days were very closely supervised by the Dean. He and Mr. Arnold used to have daily conferences in the Librarian's room at 3.30. No books were bought until the Dean could be convinced that they were actually needed and were going to be used.

The Librarian at that time was Secretary of the School as well and we were all assistant secretaries.

At times it fell to my lot to read scholarship applications to the Dean. When an applicant lived in a private house Professor Langdell was always interested in room rents in that locality — information which to my sorrow I seldom possessed.

Examination time was a period of tribulation and trial to the library force as well as to the students. We had to tabulate all the returns and reckon averages. Class day was our hardest day. It was then held on Friday and the Faculty Meeting followed at 9 A.M. on Saturday, so it was our last chance at the third-year marks. There was also a dance afternoon and evening in the Gym, and the old Gym was very near Austin Hall. Did you ever try to add and divide to waltz time? There were compensations, however. Between the afternoon and evening sessions in the Gym we sometimes shared in what was left of the refreshments, by special invitation (via the back door) of our colored janitor, who knew the waiters. Poor old Charlie — he lost a leg later and we contributed to buy him a cork one. He had a wife whom he could not lose, a sort of peregrinating one who used to turn up occasionally and attach his pay and then disappear again, and from whom he finally ran away. He had been a sailor and we all thought he had gone to sea again, but he returned years later from the Maine woods where he had been working (or hiding) in lumber camps. The head janitor, Mr. Cutler, was a good scout and he found a place for Charlie in one of the other buildings.

We had no telephone then. In fact there was, as far as I know, only one telephone in the University. The booth was in University Hall and each department was furnished with a key. Ours used to hang in the Librarian's office. When there was an occasion to communicate with the President, I was likely to be the messenger. Life was simpler then. At times President

Eliot came to the door himself, at one time I remember in his shirt-sleeves. When we finally got a separate telephone, it too was installed in the Librarian's office. At first Mr. Arnold did not like it and he made this obvious to everyone who used it. When a professor got a call and came into the office, all activity stopped and leaning back in his chair Mr. Arnold waited in resigned and almost audible silence until the conversation was over.

In 1895 Mr. Langdell resigned as Dean and Professor James Barr Ames was appointed. Dear old Ames — we of the old library staff will never forget him. All in all, I think he was the finest man I ever knew. Soon after his appointment there was a decided change in the business administration of the School. A young man from the Middle West (Eugene Allen Gilmore, now Dean at the University of Iowa Law School) was appointed Secretary and he brought with him a contraption not many of us had seen before, a typewriter; also a letter-press. Heretofore all letters had been painfully written and then copied by hand. It was some time yet before the Library possessed these marvels, but at least we knew now of their existence. He also brought rulers and lots of pencils and ink erasers. Until now the Library had gotten along with one eraser for the use of the force, and our only ruler had once formed part of an old desk.

The Library had by this time outgrown its quarters, which necessitated alterations in Austin Hall. The stacks were extended upward and two floors added, the old store-room turned into an additional lecture room, the books moved out and sorted and our statutory and foreign collections started. I believe that it was in connection with these alterations that we got our first electric lights, but of this I am not sure. In the remodeling, additional rooms for the faculty were created and this was responsible for another ink inci-

dent. One of these rooms was allotted to a member of the faculty whose eyesight was none too good. The ink-wells at that time were cleaned and refilled regularly and our surplus stock drawn upon whenever necessary. One day the boy reported to me that there were not enough left to go around. I asked him what had become of our stock, but he could not tell, so an investigation was started. When we reached this professor's room we found his table drawer half full of ink-wells. He had apparently been putting them out of his way one at a time. He must have controlled 51% of the available supply, but we quietly confiscated the unearned increment or whatever it was, without too much disruption of business, and I don't believe this monopolist or prince of privilege was ever aware of the fact.

With more available space we now entered two new fields in book collecting. In the summer of 1898 I made comparative tables of the session law material in the College and Law School Libraries, and as the Law School made the better showing the collection in the College Library was turned over to us at a purely nominal price. We at once set about the task of completing this collection, which has been continued consistently and energetically ever since.

Dean Langdell took very little if any interest in our foreign law books, which, as I mentioned above, had been kept in a poorly lighted, unheated store-room. With the exception of a few periodicals we were getting practically no current material. These books were now in the open and Dean Ames actively undertook the task of bringing this collection up to date. In his next trip to Europe Mr. Arnold visited Paris, where he purchased a large number of recently published French, Italian and German books and established relations with several continental dealers. As Mr. Arnold had no reading knowledge of foreign languages and I had a little, the task of keeping up this collection fell to me,

closely supervised of course by the Dean. Very shortly this part of the Library was augmented very materially by the wonderful Brinton Coxe library gift and the purchase of the library of an Italian scholar, Muzio Melloni.

We had now reached the point where some sort of catalogue was necessary. Charles Sumner had prepared one in 1833, of which a fourth edition appeared in 1846; but there had been nothing since. Certain important books had been sent to the College Library for cataloguing, and printed catalogue-titles of these volumes were from time to time arranged and mounted in a scrap-book. Consequently the method of purchasing a book was somewhat as follows. If the book offered was printed before 1846 we looked first in the printed catalogue, next in the scrap-book, then searched the shelves and lastly the desks of members of the faculty and their little note-books in which they were supposed to record every book removed from the Library. Then, if our searches were vain and if neither Mr. Arnold nor I could remember seeing the book, it was ordered. As the Library grew in size and the inexpediency of this process became more obvious, a very short title catalogue of all the common law treatises was determined upon and Mr. Charles F. D. Belden (the new secretary) and I hastily made such a finding-list, during the summer of 1901 and 1902. It was a very inadequate make-shift, but better than nothing.

Owing to the Coxe acquisition mentioned above and to the gift of the large law library of Justice Gray of the United States Supreme Court, including his complete collection of Records and Briefs, our shelving space had again become inadequate, and permission was obtained to use the annex of Lawrence Hall and the basement of Walter Hastings. To the latter, after the installation of fire-proof walls and doors, we moved the

entire foreign collection, which remained there until the construction of Langdell Hall. In Lawrence were shelved the Records and Briefs and the statutes.

Mr. Arnold was now getting along in years, he had long periods of illness, and as a result I had to assume more and more responsibility. I now took his place at auction-sales, first in Boston and later in New York and Philadelphia. Book auctions have long been for us a fruitful source of supply, not only of the out-of-the-way and high-priced books but also of the common garden variety which we have frequently been able to obtain at ridiculously low prices. We were very much chagrined when the largest book auction house in Boston, that of C. F. Libbie & Co., closed its doors some years ago. I remember meeting Mr. Libbie on the New York boat a while later and telling him how sorry we were that he had gone out of business. "Yes," he said, "that may be, but you and your Mr. Beale with your ten cent bids were partly responsible." I found attendance at book auctions had a double advantage. You not only had an opportunity to purchase books of a kind not obtainable in any other way, but it brought you in intimate contact with dealers and your colleagues in the library world — too intimate at times when you were both after the same book.

I had been keeping up the finding-list, gradually enlarging its scope, and rewriting titles that were too short to properly identify the books; but the faculty decided that the time had come for a real catalogue. In 1902 Mr. Belden, who had been our Secretary for some years, was appointed Assistant Librarian and the work turned over to him. He employed a catalogue force, and active work was commenced on an Author Index of the common law books. Catalogue card cases were purchased for the Reading Room in Austin and cards filed here as made. At the same time copy for the printer was prepared which resulted in our printed

Author Catalogue of works on the common law. In the preface to these volumes a subject volume was promised but this was never issued, as Mr. Belden resigned before the work on the author part was completed.

Meantime Dean Ames had asked me to start work on a catalogue of the foreign law, which I did on June 26, 1908, a short time after the Library was moved to Langdell Hall.

With the passing of time many changes had taken place in the landscape about the Law School. The football field on Jarvis Field had gone, and Perkins Hall was erected where the wooden bleachers once stood, the long line of ancient willows made way for Pierce Hall, and, saddest of all for the Law Library boys, the baseball field, onto which our back doors at Austin directly opened, providing free admissions to the Yale Game (if you were careful to locate the police in advance), was moved to the inaccessible Stadium.

SINCE the last issue of the "Notes" the Library has lost three of its Staff members by death.

Walter Ballantyne, our photographer, died on August 14 in Maine. He came to work at the Library in September, 1925, at the beginning of the Library's operation of a photostat, having received his training in the office of the Photostat Corporation of Boston. There was not enough work to warrant a full-time operator, so Walter spent nearly half his time assisting Mr. Gookin. In the thirteen years since then, he saw the equipment under his charge grow from one almost obsolete wooden photostat to four up-to-date photostating machines, not to mention equipment for making microfilms and doing other photographic work, in the

use of all of which he was expert. As one of our Librarians expressed it, "I always thought of him as a man who could do anything with a camera."

Paul Murphy, whose death occurred on September 5, had been a member of the Staff since November, 1920. He served for four years in the Reading Room, and from 1924 to 1934 in the stack, where he was second in command, taking full responsibility in the absence of John Shea. In 1934 he was transferred to the Collating Room, to take charge of incoming and outgoing shipments, combining with this the responsibility for the plating of books. He will long be remembered for his quiet, efficient and cheerful handling of any task that came his way.

By the death on October 21 of Andrew Freeman, head night watchman extraordinary, the Library lost a genial friend. All of us came to take for granted his cheerful personal greeting at the end of the day, his little gifts of fruit or flowers, perhaps not realizing how real was the interest that lay behind them, or how well he came to know us. But so thorough was his unobtrusive practice of the fine art of making friends that no one was surprised when, on the day of his funeral, the church where he had long been a moving spirit hardly held the flowers and the people come to do him honor.

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